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**POWELL'S**


**Wastings Guide.**

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# HASTINGS GUIDE.

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FIFTH EDITION.

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A CONSIDE

HISTORICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

OF

**HASTINGS,**

BATTLE, WINCHELSEA, AND RYE,

INCLUDING ALSO

SEVERAL OTHER PLACES

IN THE VICINITY OF THOSE ANCIENT TOWNS;

With a brief particular of the Situation

OF THE

**LODGING HOUSES.**

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EMBELLISHED WITH

Engravings, a Plan of the Town, and a Map of the  
Environs of Hastings.



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and Messrs. Longman, Rees, Orme, Brown,  
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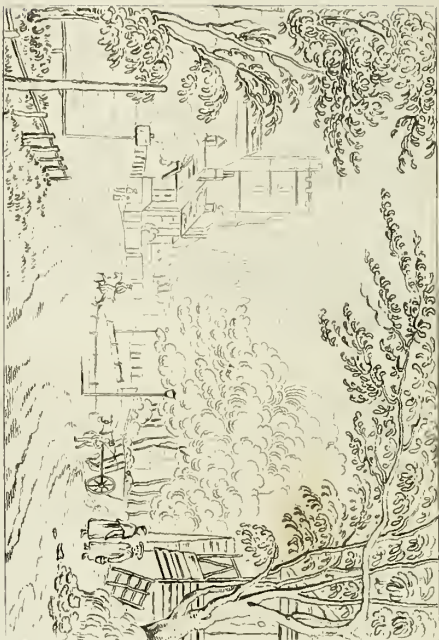
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P. M. POWELL respectfully begs leave to submit to the Public the *Fifth Edition* of the HASTINGS GUIDE, containing several particulars of the ANTIQUITY OF THE CASTLE and the Town, as also of many modern improvements, &c. which were not noticed in the former Edition.

POWELL avails himself of this opportunity of returning his sincere acknowledgments to his numerous *Subscribers and Friends*, for their *patronage and support*; and most earnestly solicits a continuance of their kind recommendation, which it will be his anxious endeavour to merit.







ENTRANCE OF HASTINGS.





HASTINGS, FROM THE MINNIS ROCKS.

**HISTORICAL**  
AND  
**TOPOGRAPHICAL**  
*Sketch*  
OF  
**HASTINGS.**



**T**HE town of **HASTINGS**, in **Sussex**, which is the chief of the Cinque Ports, is most delightfully situated in a valley upon the sea-coast, sixty-four miles from **LONDON**, near the eastern extremity of the county, and surrounded on all sides except the south, with high cliffs and hills; which afford a shelter that renders it, particularly to invalids, one of the most healthy places in the kingdom. It formerly principally consisted of two parallel streets, *High-street* and *All-saints-street*, divided by a small stream called the *Bourne*, which runs into the sea; but **HASTINGS** having of late years become one of the most favorite places of resort, a number of new houses have been built in the most eligible

situations, for the accommodation of the visitors; particularly the Marine Parade, Pelham Place and Crescent, Breeds Place, Wellington Square, Blucher's Buildings, York Buildings, the Croft, Gloucester Place, Cavendish Place, Coburg Place, &c. &c. The town has been greatly improved, by paving and lighting the principal parts of it; the number of inhabitants has greatly increased and is now estimated at 7,000.

Respecting its name and antiquity, it appears from SHARON TURNER's History of the Anglo-Saxons, that *Offa*, King of *Mercia*, an ambitious Prince, wishing to extend his dominions, invaded KENT and a great slaughter ensued at *Otford*, in which *Offa* triumphed, and KENT submitted to the power of *Mercia*. It is also stated that he attacked the *Hestingi*—the situation of these people has been doubted by various authors; but the most prevalent opinion is that they were from HASTINGS, one of the Cinque Ports; and this presumption is supported by *Alford*, who states in his annals that a charter in *Dublet* fixes them in SUSSEX, by which charter *Offa* confirms a grant of land in the neighbourhood of HASTINGS to the *Abbey of St. Dennis*, and styles *Bertwald*, the proprietor of HASTINGS and PEVENSEY, his *Fidelis*.



*Offa* reigned from the year 755 to 794, it follows therefore that historians have been mistaken in supposing that the town derived its name from *Hastings*, the celebrated Danish pirate, who invaded ENGLAND in the reign of *Alfred*, about the year 879, which was more than a century after the grants above mentioned.

From the different records which have been published relative to this town we learn that as early as the reign of *Athelstan*, Anno Dom. 924, it was of sufficient importance to have a mint, from which circumstance an inference may be drawn, that it must then have been in a flourishing condition: HASTINGS too was bound, on receiving legal notice of forty days, to provide and equip twenty-one ships, to co-operate with those furnished by the Ports, to suppress the daring enterprizes of Danish pirates. During the early part of the reign of *Henry the Third*, the Cinque Ports fitted out forty ships, under the command of *Hubert de Burgho*, (Warden of those Ports, and Governor of Dover Castle,) which putting to sea, came up with and engaged eighty sail of French ships, which were coming to aid *Louis*, the French king's son, when after a furious engagement on both sides, several of the enemy's

ship's were captured, and the remainder sunk or dispersed.

It was this, and other important services rendered by the ports' fleet, which no doubt procured them the many honors and privileges they did at that time, and still enjoy ; among others, the barons of the Cinque Ports have the honor of supporting the canopies over the King and Queen, at their coronation, which afterwards become the property of the Ports, and of dining with their Majesties on that occasion.

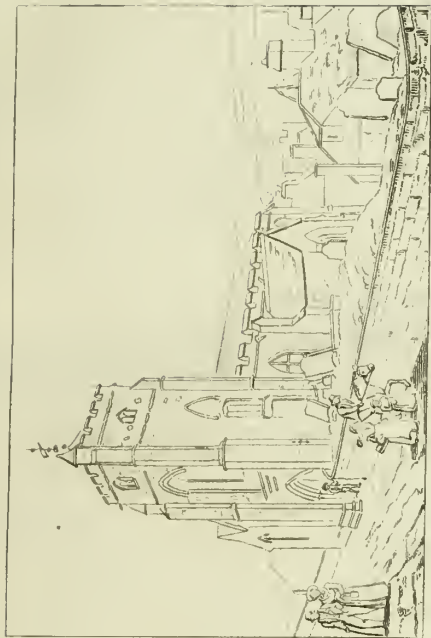
During the reign of *Richard the Third*, anno 1377, HASTINGS was burned by the French ; and when rebuilt, was separated into three parishes, *St. Clement*, *All Saints*, and *St. Mary in the Castle*.

## RELIGIOUS EDIFICES.

The present CHURCHES, *St. Clement* and *All Saints*, are both very ancient fabrics, though it is uncertain when they were built.

### SAINT CLEMENT,

(Commonly called the Lower Church,) appears



ST CLEMENT'S CHURCH, HASTINGS.



to have undergone but little alteration since it was first erected. It contains several curious inscriptions on brass and marble; and on the north side of the chancel, within a large gilt frame, an inscription is recorded by the corporation, dated 20 Jan. anno dom. 1721, acknowledging many great and generous benefactions received from the late *Hon. Archibald Hutcheson*, esq. one of their barons in parliament, in the reign of *Queen Anne*. On the south side of the chancel is a very handsome monument to the memory of the late *JOHN COLLIER*, esq. of this town; and on the north side is another recently erected to the memory of *EDWARD MILWARD*, esq. The *Altar-piece* to this church, which is very neat, was executed by that distinguished artist the late Mr. *MORTIMER*, who, from his peculiar skill in delineating the human figure, was pre-eminently qualified to paint such subjects. On the ceiling is a representation of the heavenly regions, and underneath, at the corners, are the figures of Faith, Hope, and Charity. The *Font*, although a curious piece of antiquity, has been so much disfigured by imprudent repairs and whitewash, that it is scarcely possible to trace the workmanship on it: it is said to bear representations of our Saviour's passion.

## ALL SAINTS,

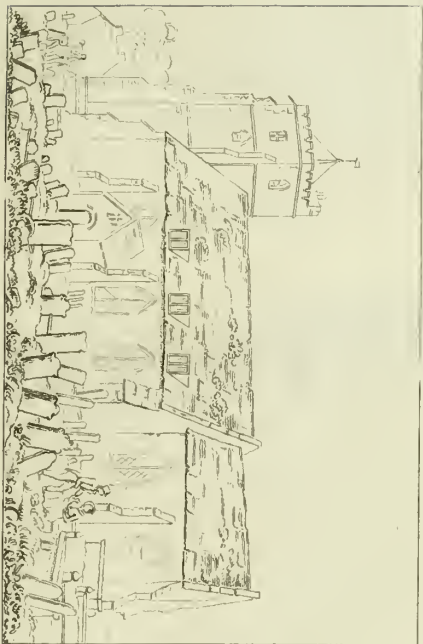
(Usually styled the Upper Church,) stands near the entrance of the town, and is supposed to be about 700 years old. It contains not any sepulchral memorials deserving of particular notice; the *pulpit cloth* was part of the canopy held over QUEEN ANNE at her coronation, and on the roof of the belfrey are still the twelve signs of the zodiac, in tolerable preservation.

## ST. MARY'S.

The parish of Saint Mary's, which contains the principal houses for the accommodation of visitors, and a population of 1500 persons, was without any place of public worship, until the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Chichester procured an Act of Parliament, and by his munificence, is erecting at his sole cost, an elegant edifice, to be called

## ST. MARY'S CHAPEL,

Situated in the centre of Pelham Crescent, capable of containing 1200 persons, including free sitting for one hundred and fifty.



ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HASTINGS.





## DISSENTING CHAPELS.

Till within the last twenty-five years there was neither chapel nor meeting-house in Hastings, for dissenters of any denomination. There are now five. The first was erected in 1805, in the Croft. It is called the

## CROFT CHAPEL,

It will accommodate about 500 persons, including children. The church government is independent. The Rev. W. Davis, formerly of Hoxton College, has been minister of this place of worship since the close of 1818. The next in size and importance is the *Wesleyan*, erected in 1822, situated in Waterloo-passage, near the north end of the town. There is a small chapel on the east-hill, called *Ebenezer*, the minister of which, a Mr. Fenner, resides at Peckham, where he has also a chapel. His visits to Hastings are only occasional. The congregation is therefore generally left destitute of an officiating minister. The friends of this place are of the baptist denomination, but their

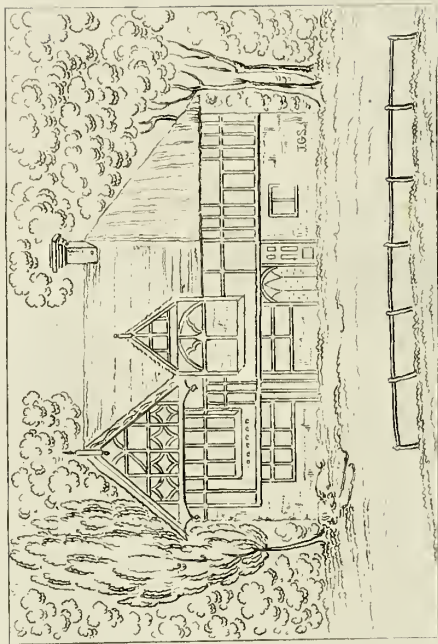
sentiments are not very dissimilar from those of the late Mr. Huntington.

In addition to the above, there are two small places of worship at the bottom of Court-house street. One is called *Zoar*. The preacher is a tradesman in the town. The other is a school room, in which some Wesleyans of the new connexion, or Bryanites, meet for public worship.

### TOWN HALL.

The old *Town Hall* or Court House, under which is the Market-place, was erected in the year 1700, at the expense of *John Pultney* and *Peter Gott*, esquires, then representatives in parliament for HASTINGS; but a more commodious Hall was built in 1823, at the expense of the corporation. In it is a shield bearing the arms of France, brought from Quebec, and which was presented to the corporation by *General James Murray*, who spent the latter days of his life at his seat called BEAUPORT, near HASTINGS, after having endured the hardships and fatigue of many years active service.





AN OLD MANSION, AT THE ENTRANCE OF HASTINGS,

*in 1810.*

## CASTLE.

The first object which attracts the attention of a stranger, is the remains of a very large and ancient CASTLE, on the summit of the west hill.

The walls, which are now fast mouldering to decay, are composed chiefly of flint and stone, and in thickness near eight feet.

HASTINGS CASTLE is first mentioned in the Chancery roll 25th and 26th Hen. VI. restoring to the bishop of Chichester his right of jurisdiction over Hastings College; which document distinctly mentions a parish church of St. Mary within the Castle of Hastings in the Saxon times.

The additions made to this fortress by William the Conqueror before the Battle of Hastings, consisted in cutting the great moat on the east side, which separated the Castle hill into two; raising the Castle mount from the soil dug out of it, and forming the various earth-works still to be traced on the east and north. This is proved to be the fact from the Bayeux Tapestry, which represents a person digging, and another giving orders: the inscription

underneath, literally translated is, "He ordered that a Castle should be *dug* at Hastings;" plainly implying, as Mr. King observes, that this camp or castle was a mere earthwork; for there is no representation of a castle or building here as in other parts of the tapestry. After his victory there is no doubt but William enlarged the castle with buildings, both from remains of them still in being, and from what he did at Dover and other places of strength on the sea-coast, as well as at the Tower of London.

The next mention of it is in Doomsday Book under the head "BEXLEI HUNDRED;" which it is said "*Osbert* held conjointly with bishop *Ailric* in the time of King Edward and afterwards, until King William gave to the earl the Castelry of Hastings." The earl here alluded to, was Robert earl of Eu, the first grantee of the Castle after its finishing.

Earl Robert on receiving possession "erected and established," says the record just quoted, "the parish Church of St. Mary within the same Castle, into a collegiate Church." The foundation as we learn from subsequent records, was for a Dean, eight canons or prebendaries, a certain number of Chaplains, Clerks, or Minis-

ters, six vicars choral, a sacrist, two schoolmasters, who presided over a music and grammar school attached, and several subordinate officers. He died some years afterwards and left the Castle of Hastings to his son.

William de Auco succeeded; who having been in conspiracy with Melbray earl of Northumberland, his earldom of Eu and barony of Tickill escheated to the crown. He died 1096. The military custody of the Castle had before his death been seized for William Rufus by Erdo de Rye one of his officers, whom he dispatched from Normandy for that purpose. The same monarch also in 1090, assembled most part of the nobles and bishops at the Castle to do him homage on his ascending the throne, an event which shews its high importance at this period. The estate of this William de Auco was probably granted to his son as well as his earldom, if either really escheated, as the editor of *Magna Britannia* asserts, for Dugdale says, Henry earl of Eu succeeded him. He confirmed his grandfathers charter to Hastings College, and dying 4th of Steph<sup>n</sup>. was succeeded by his eldest son, and heir, John earl of Eu; who married Alice daughter of William de Albrini

earl of Arundell. This John died 17th Hen. 2d, leaving her a widow; and was succeeded by Henry 5th earl of Eu, who confirmed, and added several new gifts to Hastings College. He left one daughter and heir named Alice. This Alice married Ralph de Yesenden, who succeeded to the earldom of Eu and Castle of Hastings in her right. He certified 13th of John, as to Hastings Castle—That all the principal land holders of the Rape under him, were bound to keep ward there monthly with fifteen knights, as well as to keep the castle bridges. He died 3rd Hen. 3rd, leaving issue one son and one daughter.

William 7th earl of Eu, held the Castle jointly with the widow Alice until 9th Hen. 3rd, when it became forfeited to the crown, by whom it was afterwards granted to various persons. In 1245 Peter de Savoy earl of Richmond held the custody of it. 1248 a grant of it was made by the King to his son Prince Edward. 1254, an exchange having been agreed on between the Prince and the said Peter, the Castle was resigned into the King's hands for the use of the latter, and a grant thereof was made to him by the King in lieu of certain lands part of the earl-



dom of Richmond, which were transferred to the Prince. 1269 the Castle and Rape were bequeathed by the said Peter to Queen Eleanor, from whom the King subsequently obtained them for an annuity of 800 marks and they again returned to the crown.

John de Dreux grandson of Peter succeeding to the earldom of Richmond, and a compact having before existed between his father and the King for an exchange, but which did not then take place, a new agreement was entered into. By this Henry consented to grant to the said John, the Rape, but *not the Castle*, which latter was to be severed from it, together with the town of Hastings, the advowson of the castle church, and the advowsons of the prebends. 2d Ed. 1st, this arrangement again not having been completed, an inquisition in order thereto was taken, when it was returned, "that the castle of Hastings, with the herbage within and without the castle, namely, in the ward, was worth by the year half a mark; and the church within the castle worth in tithes four marks, in rents 100s. and in offerings at the cross ten marks."

The following year we find the King altering the constitution of Hastings college, which from

being known as the collegiate church of St. Mary, was thenceforward called "the King's Royal Free Chapel of Hastings." The bishop of Chichester was deprived of his right of ordinary jurisdiction which he had before exercised as diocesan, and the whole was subjected to the visitation of the King's commissioners. These encroachments produced a contest with the crown which lasted all that reign, and which constitutes the principal feature in the history of the castle. The particulars which have been several times before given, will be found in Prynne. We learn from them that the King successively appointed two presiding officers over the castle at this time. John de Wichco, in his 27th year who is called in the writ "Keeper," and Stephen Sprott, who is styled "Constable."

4th Ed. 3rd, the King in consequence of a petition from the chapter—stating the dilapidated state of the chapel and a number of evils which arose therefrom and from the ruined condition of the castle walls, which latter had been suffered so to remain ever since its forfeiture by the earls of Eu—granted them the herbage around the castle mentioned in the above inquisition,

that they might keep the same in repair and rebuild the deanery and prebendary houses; together with the custody of the castle during peace or until the appointment of a warden, which officer it appears the castle was then without. 1340, the French landed at Hastings and plundered the castle, which occasioned the King to command an inquiry to be made as to the keeping of castle guard; when the jury returned several curious particulars as to the castle, viz. that Hen. 3rd. did grant the same castle to John de Britannia, with the castle guard rents—that he and his descendants had ever since received the same, without applying any part towards the guarding of the castle; and that in consequence no guard had been kept there since his time—that King Henry had committed the custody of the castle sometimes to one and sometimes to another, without any interference on the part of the Duke—but whether he the Duke, was bound to apply the rents to keep castle guard, they the jurors, knew not.

19th Ed. 3rd, on a visitation of the college it was returned that although 10s. a year had been received by the dean for the profits of the castle herbage, nothing had been done towards the

castle repairs, as required by the Kings grant—several enormities were reported as to the college at the same time. These enormities and the increasing dilapidations of the college and castle were again set forth in the return to another visitation, 11th Hen. 4th.

23rd Hen. 6th, the castle, which had continued in the crown from the time of Hen. 3rd, was granted by the King with the Rape, to Sir Thomas Hoo. The executors of Sir Thomas Hoo at his death sold the same to Lord William Hastings for £600. From Lord Hastings they descended to the earls of Huntingdon, and continued with them until 33 Eliz. when the castle and rape were sold by Henry earl of Huntingdon for £2800, and a reserved rent of £13. 6s. 8d. to Sir Thomas Pelham; whose descendant the earl of Chichester is the present proprietor.

From the time of Hen. 4th we hear nothing of the castle or college as buildings, great part of the castle being carried away by the sea; its walls and defences ruined, and neglected by the crown in consequence, it appears to have fell gradually to decay, and at length to have served little other purpose than as gardens and pasturage for the dean and those to whom he let

parts of the site. The dissolution, which annihilated the college, completed its destruction. In certain interrogatories in chancery taken 40 years after this event, the ground within the castle is described to have been successively let to different tenants, one of whom ploughed it up and sowed it with hemp, and another with corn. The interior for more than a century past had been occupied as pasturage for sheep, the ruins of the few buildings which remained were covered with mould and grass, rising in the form of hills in various parts, and the walls only displayed a quantity of misshapen fragments, which, to use the language of Grove, who surveyed them 50 years ago, "appeared to have been plain, and without towers or any other means of defence."

The excavation of the castle which took place 3 years ago by order of the late Lord Chichester, is well known. It began from the accidental discovery of some stone steps which belonged to the circular tower in the north wall, and has been the means of bringing to view a variety of interesting remains, none of which were supposed to exist. Among them is the College Church 110 feet long, the chap-

ter house, deanery and prebendal houses ; part of the flooring of the keep ; the whole of the castle mount ; the entire line of east wall, with a semi-circular tower and towered gateway ; the foundations of the great gatehouse and guard room attached, and without, the remains of the drawbridge and wall communicating from it with the castle mount, &c. In fact, all of this once extensive and royal fortress which has survived. Several coins, remains of pottery, sculptured capitals of pillars, mouldings and other architectural fragments were discovered during this excavation, together with an antient cross and other curiosities, now in the possession of lord Chichester.

## THE HARBOUR.

The town of *Hastings* had formerly a good *Harbour*, formed by a wooden pier, which projected from the centre of the Marine Parade in a south-east direction, below where the Fort now stands ; but, in the early part of queen *Elizabeth's* reign, the pier was destroyed by a violent storm ; since which time it has remained in its present state, and is called the *Stade*. *Camden* says,



HASTINGS, FROM THE PIER ROCKS.





“that queen *Elizabeth* granted a contribution towards the making a new harbour at *Hastings*, which was begun; but the contribution was quickly converted into private purses, and the public good neglected.” Large pieces of timber, and enormous fragments of rocks, the remains of the pier, are to be seen at low water.

### METHOD OF SECURING VESSELS.

The method now adopted for securing vessels from the fury of the waves is surprising to those who have never seen any thing of the kind: they are drawn up on the beach by a capstan, with three or four horses, and the facility and expedition with which vessels from fifty to one hundred tons burthen are lowered, after being loaded, is astonishing: pieces of wood well greased, are laid at the vessel's keel and side to run on: a large screw is then applied to her bows, by which she is set in motion; when she has run as far as is necessary, she is easily stopped by cables round the capstan, and left to float when the tide returns.

## THE FORT.

At the west end of the Stade is a Fort, mounting six twenty-four-pounders (during war,) built about forty years ago, and which not only serves to defend the town against an enemy, but is a most excellent barrier against the encroachments of the sea in boisterous weather. Adjoining the fort is the *Parade*, which, being seven hundred feet in length, and commanding a most extensive prospect of the ocean, *Beachy Head*, and *Pevensey Bay*, is considered one of the best promenades of any watering place on the coast.

## CHARTERS.

Hastings received CHARTERS from Edward the Confessor, William the First, and several other monarchs, who reigned over the kingdom prior to the year 1688. The corporation is composed of a mayor, jurats, and freemen, is exempted from toll, and is empowered to hold courts of judicature in cases of a capital nature. Since the 43rd of Edward the Third, *Hastings* has re-

turned two members to serve in parliament, who are elected by the jurats and freemen.

## BATTLE OF HASTINGS.

Few persons conversant with English history can fail remembering *Hastings*, as the place signalized by the battle which terminated in subjecting the dominion of England to William the First, and by which event he acquired the appellation of the Conqueror.

It is therefore only necessary on the present occasion to state, that the battle was fought on the 14th of October, in the year 1066, between *Harold* and *William Duke of Normandy*, who, in consequence of a pretended right to the throne of ENGLAND, landed at PEVENSEY BAY, a few days prior to the battle, with a well-appointed army, consisting of near 60,000 men, including a fine body of cavalry. The news of the arrival of the invaders soon reached the ears of *Harold*, who, elated with his recent success in defeating the *Norwegians* at STAMFORD, lost no time in collecting his troops, and marching to attack them, notwithstanding the entreaties of his brothers to postpone a general engagement, and en-

deavour to harass the enemy with skirmishes. *Harold*, although unequal to his rival in point of numbers, particularly in cavalry, having made a happy choice of ground, and the most skilful disposition of his army, was enabled to maintain the best of the engagement for the greater part of the day, until the artful *Norman*, almost despairing of victory, adopted the stratagem of ordering his troops to make a false retreat, with the view of inducing the *English* to quit their favorable position: a snare into which they unhappily fell, thereby giving the enemy an opportunity of bringing their cavalry into action, and which very soon committed dreadful slaughter among them, during which the brave *Harold* and his two brothers were killed, also many noblemen and gentlemen of the first distinction.

Both armies fought with desperation: the conflict began at sunrise, and was not terminated till night had enveloped all in darkness, when the number of slain was immense, particularly on the side of the *English*. In commemoration of the event, *William the Conqueror* shortly afterwards founded an ABBEY on the spot where the battle is said to have raged most fiercely, and filled it with Benedictine monks from MARMON-

TIER in NORMANDY, that continual prayers might be offered to the Almighty for the victory he had obtained, and for the souls of the brave men who were slain. A particular description of this abbey is given in another part of this work.

### PRIORY.

At a short distance westward of the cliffs on which the *Castle* stands is a farm-house, built with the remains and on the scite of a PRIORY of black canons formerly existing at HASTINGS, which was founded in the reign of *Richard the First*, by *Sir Walter Bricet*, and dedicated to the Holy Trinity. At the dissolution, the annual revenues of this edifice were estimated at £57. The estate now belongs to *Earl Cornwallis*. Adjoining the farm-yard was a piece of water, which being drained off a few years back, a hole near thirty feet deep, (with the remains of a sluice, gates, and timbers of large dimensions,) was discovered, most probably the relics of some works, formed by the monks, as a protection to their dwelling from the ravages of the sea. It is now filled with sand.

## MARKET DAYS.

The *Market days* at HASTINGS are on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and are well supplied with South-down mutton and other butchers' meat. Poultry, Butter, Eggs, Vegetables, &c. are supplied in great plenty by the country people. Fish at all times in abundance and cheap.

## FAIRS.

There are also FAIRS annually on Whit-tuesday, 26th July, and 23d November; that called Rock Fair, held on the 26th of July is the most frequented.

## FREE SCHOOLS.

There are several Charity Schools in the town, for the education of the children of the inhabitants. The principal of which are those founded by the Rev. William Parker, and Mr. Saunders, formerly of Hastings, under the direction and management of the Mayor and Corporation.

## CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

The most prominent are the *Lying-in Society*, and the *Benevolent Society*, which have been established for many years, under the patronage and superintendence of the Ladies of Hastings, supported by the voluntary contribution of the Visitors and Inhabitants.

The Committee of Subscribers meet once in every month, at the House of the Treasurer, for the purpose of making a strict enquiry into the character and circumstances of every person who applies for relief, in order that the funds of the society may not be misapplied.

## HOTELS.

The *Castle Hotel*, near Wellington Square, commands extensive views of the sea and adjacent hill; is superiorly fitted up by Mr. Emary, who is desirous that every part of his establishment, should be worthy of the company that frequent Hastings.

## THE ROYAL SWAN HOTEL.

This is a very commodious House, in the High Street, kept by Messrs. Woods and Emary; it contains the Assembly Rooms, which are most fashionably attended by the Winter Visitors, and the proprietors deservedly merit the patronage of strangers.

## THE CROWN HOTEL,

Situated in All Saints Street, is kept by Mrs. Smith, and deserves particular commendation and support, as being the first (with a family of seven children) to add to the accommodation of Visitors, by every species of comfort, neatness, and domestic attention.

## THE ROYAL OAK INN,

Is pleasantly situated on the beach, in Castle Street; it commands an excellent view of the sea, is fitted up in a neat and commodious manner by Mrs. Sargent.



There are also the CUTTER INN, on the beach, close to the sea, by Mrs. Bell.

The ANCHOR INN, George Street, by Mr. Daniel.

The HASTINGS ARMS INN, George Street, by Mr. Bayley.

The KING'S HEAD INN, Court House Street, by Mr. Edwards.

The PELHAM ARMS INN, Priory, by Mr. Chandler.

At any of which, company will find attention and accommodation, either for a long or short period.

### BOARDING HOUSES.

Visitors will at all times, find most respectable society, at either of the following establishments, who vie with each other, to render every comfort to those who give them support.

Mr. DEUDNEY, No. 2, Pelham Place.

Miss BROWNING, Marine Boarding House.

Misses CAREY & WOOLLEY, No. 4,  
Caroline Place.

### LIBRARIES.

No amusement is so cheap in Hastings as

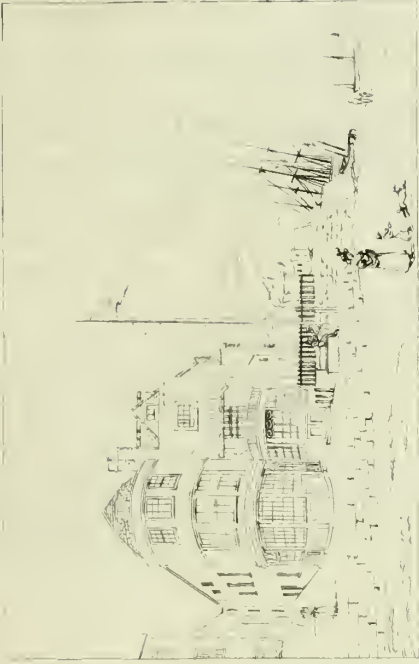
that procured at the Public Libraries, and the lovers of Literature will find a constant variety at

### POWELL'S READING ROOM,

Delightfully situated at the east end of the Marine Parade, which is supplied twice every day with London Newspapers. Several country Papers, Magazines, Reviews, and a succession of new and interesting Publications. Vocal and Instrumental Concerts, with Loo, are the usual summer evening entertainments, and the whole establishment forms an agreeable lounge.

### THE ROYAL MARINE LIBRARY,

Kept by Mr. Diplock, is situated at the west end of the Marine Parade, commanding a most extensive sea view. In it will be found every accommodation of a public room, with an ample supply of Newspapers, Reviews, and new Works ; and no pains are spared to render it a fashionable resort. Concerts and Loos are also the summer amusement, at this room.



POWELL'S LIBRARY.



There are also Mr. JONES'S LIBRARY, in High Street, and Mrs. AUSTIN'S, in West Beach Street.

### BILLIARDS.

The admirers of this delightful game, will find every opportunity of amusing themselves, at *P. M. Powell's*, No. 35, West Street, next his Library; *Mr. Diplock's*, over the Royal Marine Library; *Mr. Jones's*, Castle Street; *Mr. Mann's*, Great Bourne Street; and at the Swan Hotel.

### THEATRE.

Mr. Brooke has a neat *Theatre*, in Court House Street, which was built in 1825; before which, the Theatre was near the *Hare and Hounds*, on the road to Battle.

### BANK.

The Visitors can have Cash for their Notes, at *Messrs. Smith, Gill, and Hilder's*, whose correspondents are *Messrs. Spooner & Co.* Gracechurch-street, London.

## WARM BATHS.

The PELHAM BATHS, are conveniently situated at the west end of the Marine Parade. This establishment is formed on the most extensive scale, comprehending Baths of every description, and equal, if not superior to any in the kingdom.

The NEW WARM BATHS, on the Beach, near High Street, are fitted up in a commodious manner, and under the direction of *Mr. Powell*, Librarian.

The MARINE BATHS, on the Parade, are managed by *Mr. Diplock*, Marine Library.

## BATHING MACHINES.

Above thirty BATHING MACHINES are kept at the west end of the Marine Parade, an extremely eligible situation, from its lying between the *Town* and *Priory*. The descent is gradual to the water, which is perfectly clear and pure. An extent of sand, for nearly a mile, forms an airy promenade, at low water.

## STAGE COACHES.

Convenient and expeditious COACHES run to and from *London* daily, from the Swan, the Crown, the Castle Hotels, and Royal Oak Inn.

A COACH also goes daily to *Brighton*, during the summer, and three times a week in the winter; alternately passing through *Lewes* and *Eastbourne*: another COACH also leaves twice a week for *Rye*, *Romney*, *Hithe*, *Folkstone*, *Dover*, and *Margate*.

## THE WAGGONS

Leave the Crown, Swan, and Castle Hotels on Wednesday and Saturday, and depart from the WHITE HART and SPUR INNS, *Southwark*, on the same days.

## FLY VANS, ON SPRINGS,

Leave the Office opposite the Cutter Inn, daily at three o'clock; and return from the New Inn Old Change, Cheapside, and Talbot Inn, Boro', every afternoon at one o'clock. Another *Van*,

leaves every Tuesday and Thursday morning, and passes through *Tonbridge Wells*, to the Nag's Head, Borough.

### WATER CONVEYANCE.

Sloops are continually passing from HASTINGS to Griffin's Wharf, Carpenter Smith's Wharf, and Beals' Wharf, Tooley Street, *London*.

### THE POST.

The MAIL COACH, (through *Tonbridge Wells*,) arrives from *London* every morning (except Mondays) at six o'clock, and leaves every evening (except Saturdays) at a quarter before eight.

### PLEASURE BOATS.

Several BOATS are neatly fitted up, and those who delight in aquatic excursions may confidently intrust themselves with the experienced sailors who have the management of them.



## SOCIABLES, FLYS, CARS, GIGS, SADDLE HORSES, AND PONIES,

Are let on hire by several persons, and to be had at all times on the shortest notice.

## DONKEY CARRIAGES

Are very numerous ; but from the frequent complaint of imposition, the visitants are recommended to *bargain* with the conductors before they commence their excursions.

## BOARDING SCHOOLS.

EAST HILL HOUSE ACADEMY. This Seminary (having long been the desideratum of Hastings) is on the East Hill, which for the amenity of its situation, the salubrity of the air, and the pleasantness of its prospects, is admirably calculated for its designation. A limited number of Young Gentlemen are qualified for the Universities, the learned Professions, and every department, where erudition is the paramount object, by the Rev. C. A. Marcus, A. M. and Assistants.

MISS RICHARDS'S Ladies' Seminary, was established in 1809, in All Saints Street.

Mrs. BRAY has an excellent establishment for the education of Young Ladies, at No. 1,

Blucher's Buildings, where Ladies are also accommodated with Board and Lodgings on moderate terms, for any period.

## SITUATION OF THE LODGING HOUSES.

### MARINE PARADE,

Is situated to the south of the Castle Hill, and was formed by public subscription in 1812; but was so much injured by the sea in 1823, that a fresh subscription was raised amounting to nearly £1300, and re-built the following year. It commands extensive views of the sea, which are terminated in the west by Beachy Head, and on the east by Fairlight. On this delightful promenade are about twenty Houses.

### PELHAM PLACE,

Is a handsome range of Buildings, consisting of eight Houses, delightfully situated at the end of the Marine Parade (of which it forms the western extremity) under the Castle Cliff; commanding an extensive view of the sea, east and west of the town, and Beachy Head.

The houses are erected in the most substantial manner, are very conveniently arranged, and are supplied with good water, offering excellent



PELLAM PLACE & CRESCENT.



accommodation for the most respectable families, and may, therefore, be justly considered a very great improvement and addition to the town.

West of Pelham Place is an extensive range of buildings called Pelham Arcade, containing room for nearly thirty shops, which are usually let to tradesmen for such purpose. *Over* this remarkable structure, is the carriage road to

### PELHAM CRESCENT,

completely sheltered from the north and east winds; it consists of fourteen Houses, which are very handsomely furnished, and command a view of the sea.

### BREEDS PLACE,

Adjoining Pelham Crescent, will when completed, be a splendid range of ten Houses, combining the advantage of a fine sea view, and of a situation well sheltered from the north wind.

### CASTLE STREET.

#### PRIORY ROAD.

Is well sheltered from the north by the Castle Cliff, and contains about twenty houses and convenient lodgings, which are in general supplied with good water.

### YORK BUILDINGS,

#### PRIORY,

Are eighteen houses situated in a valley, to the

west of the Marine Parade. They are open to the north, south, and west, and slightly sheltered from the east. They are neat, well arranged houses, and most of them are supplied with good water.

### MEADOW COTTAGES,

At the back of York Buildings, are well sheltered from the east, and command a pleasant prospect of the surrounding country: here are ten houses and lodgings.

### WELLINGTON SQUARE,

Are handsome houses, well sheltered from the east by the Castle Cliff, but are open to the north, south, and west. It commands extensive views of the surrounding country, Beachy Head, and the sea. There are about forty houses, containing from 7 to 14 beds each.

### BLUCHER PLACE,

Is situated in the valley below Wellington Square, and is open to the north and west, but well secured from the east and south winds. There are 30 houses and lodgings which are well fitted up, and they have an excellent supply of water.

### CASTLE COTTAGES, AND CASTLE PLACE.

Between the Castle Hill and Wellington Square,

are fourteen neat airy houses and cottages, with a good view of the sea and country.

CAROLINE PLACE, BEACH COTTAGES,  
KENTISH BUILDINGS, DENMARK  
PLACE, YORK COTTAGES, &c.

Consist of nearly fifty houses and cottages, on the beach, between the Priory Bridge and Marine Parade, *fronting the sea*, and nearly all sheltered from the north wind.

WHITE ROCK ROAD, & ROPE WALK.

Beyond the Priory Bridge are nearly twenty lodgings, most of them have a sea view, but are exposed to the north wind.

BEACH HOUSES.

Between the west end of the Fort and East Cliff, are twenty good houses and lodgings, fronting the sea, and well defended from the north wind.

THE CROFT, GLOUCESTER PLACE,  
CAVENDISH PLACE, COBURG PLACE,  
EXMOUTH HOUSE, WEST HILL  
HOUSE, &c.

Situated on the Western Hill, are well secured from the north and west winds. There are thirty-five houses, commanding extensive and

pleasant views of the sea and country ; are well fitted up, and supplied with excellent water.

### HILL STREET,

In a line south of St. Clement's Church, contains eleven good houses and lodgings, some of which have a view of the sea.

### EAST HILL.

On the East Hill, at the back of the Crown Hotel, is a very extensive view of the sea and surrounding country. A part of the ruins of the Castle, on the West Hill, (as seen from this place) is, by many persons, supposed to represent a perfect *likeness* of our late beloved *Sovereign*.

Under this Hill, protected from the east wind, are thirty good houses, cottages and lodgings.

### HIGH STREET,

Runs nearly north and south, between the two hills. It contains the Bank, principal houses of business, sixty good lodging houses, and apartments, which are sheltered from every wind.

### ALL SAINTS STREET

Is parallel with High Street; in it are twelve good lodgings.

### WATERLOO PLACE

Consists of eight neat cottages, lying between High Street, and All Saints Street.







MRS BOADLES HOUSE, .

GEORGE STREET HASTINGS.

## GEORGE STREET

Is well sheltered from all winds, and contains twenty good houses and lodgings.

## DEVONSHIRE COTTAGE,

Most delightfully situated about half a mile from Hastings, commanding a view of the town, surrounding country and the sea. It contains 2 sitting rooms, 4 beds &c. For particulars enquire at Mr. Powell's Library, Marine Parade.

## HALLAWAY PLACE, LAUREL COTTAGE, &amp; NURSERY GARDEN COTTAGE, &amp;c.

Are pleasantly situated near the turnpike road, in the approach to Hastings.

## ROCKLANDS FARM HOUSE,

On the East Hill,

Is very pleasantly situated, with a view of the sea, fish-ponds farm, &c. The Lodgers may be accommodated with fruit, vegetables, milk, &c.

## MOUNT PLEASANT.

Is a good farm-house, about one mile north-west of the town, in the lane to the *Old Roar*, occupied by Mr. Tutt. It is most delightfully situated, commanding views of the surrounding vallies, the Castle, Priory, and the sea. The accommodations consist of two sitting rooms and five beds.

## ST. MARY'S TERRACE,

Is situated on the West Hill, commanding most extensive views of the sea, and the surrounding country.

## PROSPECT PLACE,

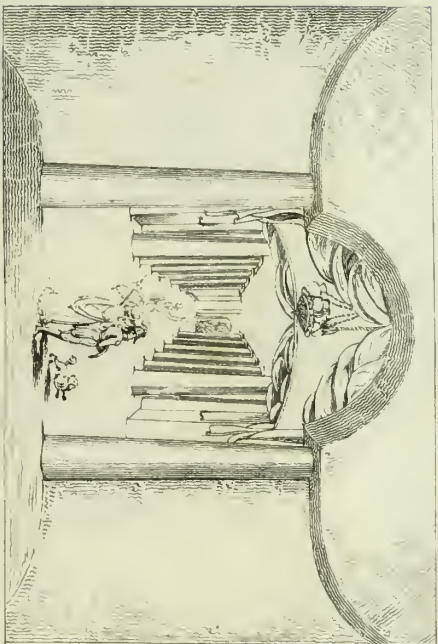
On the East Hill, in the Foot Path leading to the Fish Ponds; commands extensive views of the Sea, Beachy Head, Eastbourne, Pevensey, Bexhill, and the surrounding Country.

## THE BARRACKS.

The Barracks were situated on the West Hill, about a mile from the town on the London road; but were sold by auction in 1823. On this admirable situation, which commands the most extensive view of the sea from Beachy Head to Fairlight and the surrounding country, are now erecting many houses and neat cottages, and if the projected plan of the proprietors should be carried into execution, it will form quite a new town.

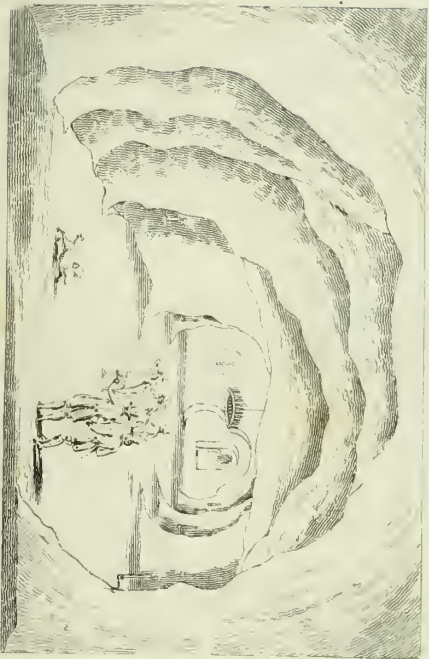
## ST. CLEMENTS CAVE.

One of the most interesting curiosities at Hastings, is *St. Clements Cave*, under the West Hill, near Gloucester Place, which had long been closed until about the year 1824, when a new entrance was opened (with the permission



ST. CLEMENT'S CAVE.

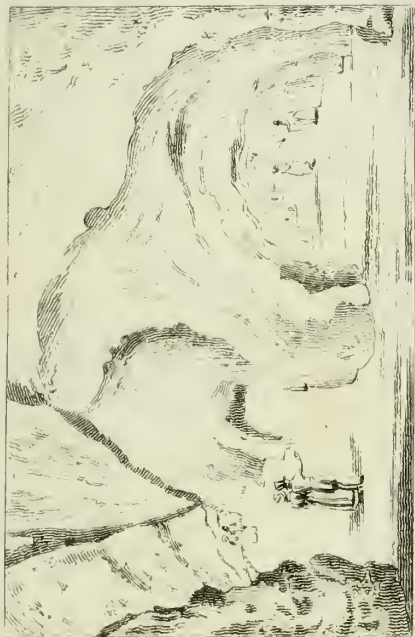




ST. CLEMENT'S CAVE,







ST CLEMENT'S CAVE.





ST CLEMENT'S CAVE.



of the proprietors) by John Scott, esq. a gentleman then residing in this town. The key of the outer door is left in the hands of Joseph Golding, who has the privilege of shewing it to such of the visitors as may be desirous of seeing this extraordinary place; but as it cannot be explored to advantage without the light of many hundred candles, it is usual for him to open it only when he can be assured of an attendance sufficient to remunerate him for the expenses which must necessarily be incurred, amounting to the sum of thirty shillings.

### SHAKESPEARE MULBERRY TREE.

In the Garden, at the back of East Cliff House, is a large Mulberry Tree, covering a space of 25 feet square, (said to be a descendant of Shakespeare's Mulberry Tree, at Stratford-upon-avon,) and planted by that great Actor Garrick, when he was on a visit to his friend Mr. Capel.

It is a curious fact, that there is at this time, a Cup made from the Mulberry Tree, *planted by Shakespeare*, in the possession of Miss H. Coleman, Marine Parade, Hastings, which was a present to her Mother from Garrick in 1776; and also a cup, turned this year from the Mulberry Tree above mentioned, *planted by Garrick*, in the possession of J. G. Shorter, Esq.

## SIR CLOUDESLEY SHOVELL.

It has been stated in several publications of a local nature, on the authority of ancient tradition, that this gallant seaman was a native of Hastings; and a small tenement in All Saints Street, is pointed out as the precise spot—several Authors of Naval History however, assert that he was born in Norfolk.

The name of Cloudesly is a very uncommon one, and, in connection with that of Shovell, *affords presumptive evidence at least*, that Hastings was really the birth-place of Sir Cloudesly Shovell; the most ancient and most respectable inhabitants bearing testimony to the long-established tradition of the fact. Now, that there was formerly a family of that name in Hastings is proved from the following extract:—  
“Feb. 16, 1590, the mayor, jurats, and commonalty, of the Town and Port of Hastings, did grant unto John Golden, of the said *Town and Port*, ALL that messuage thereunto adjoining and belonging, with all the appurtenances, situated, lying, and being in the Parish of St. Clements, in Hastings aforesaid, and now in the occupation of *Robert Cloudesly*.”\*

In the early part of the last century, a Captain Russell, who lived to a great age, and was a man

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\* From the records of the Corporation.

of strict veracity, had, in his youth, been personally acquainted with Mr. Shovell, and constantly pointed out the house † in All Saints Street, as that which, in early life, had been inhabited by him.

### TITUS OATES.

By an entry in the Church Books of All Saints, dated 4th January, 167 $\frac{3}{4}$ , it appears by the signature that the notorious *Titus Oates* was officiating minister here, though it is but proper to remark, he was not a native of Hastings.

The history of this wretched man may be sufficiently known from contemporary historians. His Father, who was an anabaptist preacher, and chaplain to Colonel Pride, probably obtained the Church of All Saints, at a time when the government, both of church and state, having been overthrown, men of every *rank, qualification, and religious* profession, procured an easy admittance.

The residence of this person was also in All Saints Street.

### CURIOUS OLD HOUSES.

In the year 1817, at the entrance of Hastings stood a venerable old mansion, which appeared to have been erected in the reign of Henry the 8th or Elizabeth. It was built principally of

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† A sketch of which is in the larger copies.

chestnut, and when in its best days, ornamented with barge boards, pinacles, drops, &c. must have had a respectable and handsome appearance. About sixty years ago it was occupied by a farmer of the name of Cleave, and afterwards converted into an Oast-house to dry Hops, by the late Edward Milward, Esq. who had a considerable plantation of them in the neighbourhood.

Upon some of the Houses in High Street, Church Street, and George Street, are the dates of 1610 and 1616. Correct sketches of which are in the illustrated editions of this work.

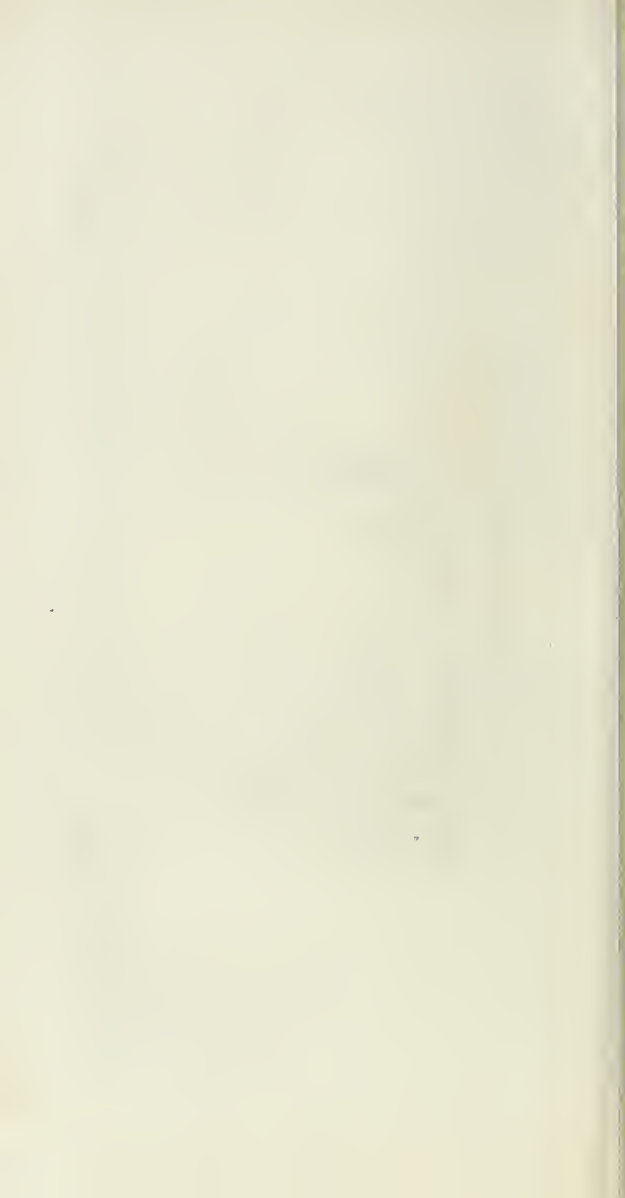
### WALKS AND RIDES.

The vicinity of HASTINGS abounds with the most delightful scenery; indeed, few watering places, particularly such as are annually frequented, whether as a source of pleasure, or for the recovery of health, possess greater attractions; and the lovers of the picturesque will not fail enjoying a high treat by visiting *Fairlight, Winchelsea, Rye, Bulverhythe, Pevensey Castle, Herstmonceux Castle, Crowhurst, Battle Abbey, Ashburnham, Bodiam Castle*, and other places; a brief account of which is given in the following pages, and most of them are within a morning's excursion.

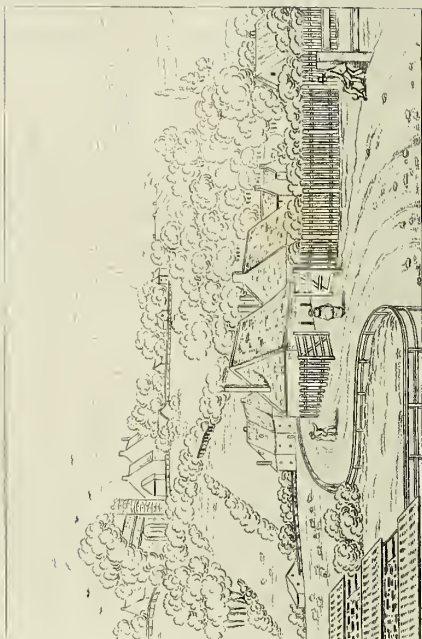


HASTINGS, FROM THE EAST WENT.









WINCHELSEA, FROM THE RYE ROAD.

## WINCHELSEA,

Is situated on rising ground, about two miles and a half from RYE, eight from HASTINGS, and a mile from the sea. Although a town of very great antiquity, it is to be lamented that history does not furnish any account of it, except that it was once a very powerful member of the Cinque Ports, and contributed ten vessels, properly armed and equipped, to the number furnished by those Ports for the public service.

According to tradition, few places in ENGLAND have experienced greater calamities than *Winchelsea*, for not only was the *Old Town* entirely inundated by the overflowing of the sea, but before the expiration of twenty years after the new one was built, it suffered materially in consequence of being twice besieged and pillaged by the *French* and *Spaniards*, and again in the year 1358 ; but the *French* were foiled in another attempt which they made to destroy it in the year 1377, after burning its neighbour *Rye*, owing, as it is supposed, to the bravery of the

*Abbot of Battle, (Hamo de Offington,)* and his dependants.

*Winchelsea*, however, in the course of near two centuries after it was so much injured by the *French*, had so far re-established itself, both in respect to trade, as well as for the magnificence of its buildings, that when Queen Elizabeth visited it in the year 1573, she was so much struck with the general appearance of the town, the splendid scarlet robes of the mayor and jurats, and the respectability of the inhabitants, as to compliment it with the title of *Little London* ; the high opinion thus entertained by her Majesty was unfortunately, of but short duration ; for, towards the conclusion of her reign, in consequence of the sea retiring from its neighbourhood, and leaving in its place a dreary marsh, the town of *Winchelsea* was soon abandoned by merchants and traders, and has, ever since that calamity, been gradually declining to a mere shadow of what it was when in its pristine state.

Regarding the authenticity of the first of those unfortunate events, the late *Mr. Grose*,

in his work on Antiquities, has given the following quotation from an old book without a title, which was in being at the time he visited this place. “ In the month of October, in the year 1250, the moon being in its prime, the sea passed over her accustomed bounds, flowing twice without ebb, and made so horrible a noise, that it was heard a great way within land, not without the astonishment of the oldest man that heard it. Besides this, at dark night, the sea seemed to be a light fire, and to burn, and the waves to beat with one another, insomuch that it was past the mariners’ skill to save their ships ; and, to omit others, at a place called *Hucheburn*, (probably *Hither*, or *East-Bourne*,) three noble and famous ships were swallowed up by the violent rising of the waves, and were drowned ; and at *Winchelsea*, a certain haven eastward, besides cottages for salt, fishermen’s huts, bridges, and mills, above three hundred houses, by the violent rising of the waves, were drowned.” Also the following passage from a book remaining with the records of the town of *Rye* :—“ Be it

remembered, that in the year of our Lord, 1287, in the even of St. Agath, the virgin, was the town of *Winchelsea* drowned, and all the lands between *Cleimsden* and *Hythe*;" both of which derive much support from the account given by *Leland* in his *Itenerary*, who observes, that "in the space of six or seven years the olde town of *Winchelsea* fell to a sore and manifest ruin by reason of the olde rages of the sea, and that during this period the inhabitants, foreseeing the probability of its total destruction, petitioned King *Edward the First* for ground to build another town, and who accordingly sent *John de Kirkby*, bishop of Ely, to select a spot of ground for that purpose, when terms were concluded for one hundred and fifty acres, belonging to *sir John Tregose*, one *Maurice*, and the *Abbey of Battle*.

The town, which was built on a hill, covered a surface of two miles in circumference, and by being divided into squares, each containing about two acres and a quarter, with spacious streets intersecting each other at right angles, must not only have had a very







WINCHELSEA CHURCH.

beautiful appearance, but admirably adapted both for health and convenience.

Although the town of *Winchelsea* is reduced to a mere shadow of its former grandeur (consisting only of but little more than one hundred houses, and about six hundred inhabitants), there is sufficient left to render it extremely interesting to the antiquary ; for, exclusive of one of the three churches which it formerly contained, there is yet remaining the three entrance gateways, and the ruins of one of the priories.

The CHURCH stands in the middle of the town in the centre of a spacious square, enclosed with a very low wall, and has a venerable and beautiful appearance, owing to the north and south transepts being in ruins, and the walls on the south and west sides finely overgrown with ivy. The interior is lofty and spacious, & exhibits three fine arches, springing from clustered columns. In the south aisle, are two monuments of *Knights Templars*,\*

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\* But most probably belonging to a society of Knight Templars which was instituted at WINCHELSEA, about the eleventh century. Of the origin of this religious Order the following brief account is given, for the information of the curious.

" The arms as well as the faith of the disciples of Mahomet, and other imposters of the East, gaining ground considerably

who, if actually buried here, must have been among the latest of their celebrated fraternity ; one of which, from the arms upon it, is supposed to have belonged to the family of *Oxenbridge*, formerly of some celebrity in this part of the county. In the north aisle there are two monuments of monks ; and in the vestry-room another one of a Knight Tem-

about this time, it became necessary, for the defence of Christianity, and the security of Jerusalem, that some of its citizens should be in the habit of carrying arms. No incentive was so likely to effect this as making the profession of arms a part of their religious duty. For this purpose certain persons in Jerusalem bound themselves by a vow, made in the presence of the Patriarch, to serve Christ and the Church after the manner of the regular canons, in chastity and obedience, to renounce their own proper will for ever. 'What a strong proof is this,' remarks Voltaire, 'that the weakness of this principality was extreme ;' for he adds, 'when general society is well governed, private associations are never made.'

"Beside this community, there were two others, the **HOSPITALIERS** and the **TEUTONIC MONKS** ; the last consisting of Germans, the two former of French. The first master of the Hospitaliers was one Raymond Dupuis, of Dauphiny ; of the Templars, one Hugh Baldwin, to whom the King of Jerusalem granted an habitation in his palace, near to a church, which is said to have been Solomon's Temple. From this circumstance they obtained the name of Templars. Their first profession was for the safeguard of pilgrims ; and they consisted only of nine persons : but they soon increased in number and in power, and spread themselves all over Europe. Princes and the first noblemen of many countries, became members of this community. Honourious the second filled the papal chair soon after their establishment, and appointed them a white habit : to this Pope Eugenius added a red cross, to be borne on the uppermost robe. Voltaire gives the following account of their suppression. 'Amongst the many contradictions which are blended in the constitution of things in this world, it is certainly a great one that there should be such an institution as that of monks in armour, who make a vow of living at the same time both anchorites and soldiers. The Templars were accused of being a set of men, in whom all the odious qualities of these two professions were united : to the debauchery and cruelty attached to the general character of a soldier, was added an insatiable passion for gain, imputed to their great Order, though they had made a vow of poverty.' Thus the Templars became the

plar, in tolerable preservation. There is also, in the soute aisle, a memorial to the late *John Stewart, esq.* commander of the Mount Stewart East Indiaman. A few years back there was standing, at the south west corner of the church-yard, a solid square tower, containing a peal of bells, which was removed in consequence of its dangerous appearance. The rectorship of this church, is in the gift of *Sir William Ashburnham, Bart.*

The other two churches, which this town formerly contained, were both standing a short time previous to that when *Lambard* wrote, which was in 1575. The ruins of *St. Gyles*, which occupied a square on the west side of the hill, have been long since removed,

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objects of envy, because they lived amongst their countrymen in all the pomp and splendour which are the attendants on affluence, and in such lawless pleasures as soldiers usually indulge in, when unrestrained by the marriage vow. The severity of the taxes levied by the King of France, surnamed Philip the Fair, had caused a sedition in Paris: the Templars were accused of being concerned in it, and Philip became implacable in his aversion to them. The two first accusers of this Order, were, one ——— de Florian, and one Noffu de Floriantine an apostate knight of the Order, both at that time, and after, under confinement for offences. On the 13th day of October, 1309, upon the accusation of those two men, the Order was entirely suppressed through all the dominions of France. Bulls also were issued out by the Pope, (Clement the Fifth), to all the potentates of Europe, to excite them to follow Philip's example. In Castile, Arragon, Sicily, and England they met with a favorable reception. In France persecution was carried on to the highest pitch which human cruelty could devise; about fifty of the knights being burnt in one day. In England, where torture is contrary to the spirit of the people, there was less cruelty, but a determination to extirpate them equally resolute and forcible; which was, by obliging all the members to enter into other societies, and seizing upon all their revenues.

and very recently the only vestage left of the north side of the tower of St. Leonard's, situated on a bold promontory towards the south-west, which had, for many years, withstood the impetuous blasts to which it was exposed. The latter contained a picture or image of a *Saint*, with a vane in his hand, which being moveable, persons desirous of a fair wind to bring home their relatives or friends, were allowed to set it as they pleased, under a confident hope of their wishes being realized.

Of the numerous other religious edifices which this town formerly contained, that called the FRIARS, founded by *William de Buckingham*, is most deserving the notice of the antiquary. The principal remains, consisting of the choir, with Gothic windows, has a very grand and venerable appearance, particularly the arch at the west end, which is near twenty-six feet wide. The whole is much improved by being surrounded with trees and evergreens; and, when viewed from the gardens, including the edifice adjoining, occupied by *Richard Stileman*, esq.\* (and

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\* Mr. STILEMAN has recently rebuilt the house in the Gothic style, and greatly improved the grounds: but will not allow them to be seen except on Mondays.

which was no doubt formerly part of the monastery,) forms a very pleasing picture.

Respecting the three gateways, which are yet standing, although in a very ruinous condition, LAND-GATE is situated at the south-east side of the town, through which the road passes to RYE; it has a round tower on each side, and, being partly overgrown with ivy, has a very picturesque appearance. The arch of the STRAND-GATE, which stands at the north side of the town, almost flat. The last, called NEWGATE, is situated nearly three quarters of a mile from the others, a little to the left of the present road leading to HASTINGS.

The *Court House* and *Gaol* are also from their ancient appearance, not undeserving of notice; and were no doubt erected at the time the town was built.

From the relative situation of *Winchelsea* to *Boulogne*, and the many spacious vaults which it contains it is not improbable, as *Grose* observes, that this place was the mart for *French* wines imported into *England* before the Wine Trade to *Portugal* was established.

A considerable traffic was also carried on, many years ago, by a company of merchants, who had a cambric manufactory in this town.

*Winchelsea*, as a member of the Cinque Ports, also participates in the several privileges and immunities enjoyed by those Ports, and received charters from several of our monarchs. The corporation consists of a mayor and twelve jurats, but is seldom complete. This town also returns two members to serve in parliament. The seal of this town is rather a curious piece of antiquity; on one side is the representation of a beautiful Gothic church, (probably that dedicated to St. Thomas, now standing,) enriched with the figures of several saints in niches, and other historical embellishments; with the following distich of Monkish verse:

Egidio, Thomæ. laudum plebs cantica prome,  
ne sit in Angaria Grex suus, amne via.

On the other side is a ship of war, rigged and manned, supposed to be a model of those furnished by the Ports during the reign of *Henry the Third*, and has the following inscription around it:

Sigillum Baronum domini Regis Anglia de Winchelsea.



A market is held weekly at *Winchelsea*, although not much frequented, and a fair for pedlary goods on the 14th of May.

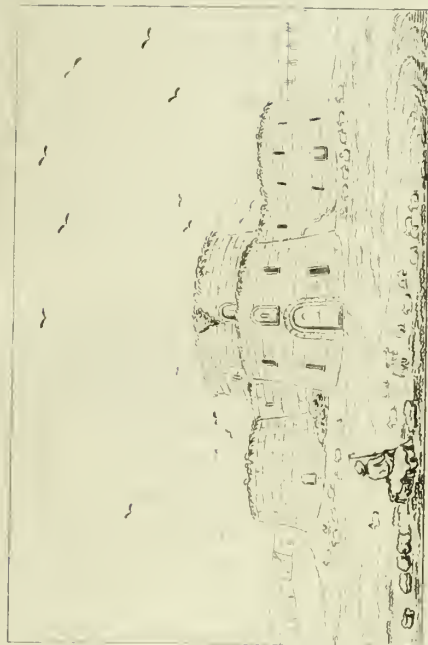
This town gave birth to that excellent and worthy prelate *Robert de Winchelsey*, who in the year 1292, was elevated to the archiepiscopal see of *Canterbury*, but owing to his officious conduct in attempting to prove certain rights of the church, which King *Edward the First* disputed, and having also forbade the clergy to pay any taxes to princes, without the consent of the Pope, had all his possessions seized, and was suspended from his office as archbishop; this event, however did not take place till after the return of the king from *Flanders*, in the year 1297, during whose absence he had committed to his charge the young Prince, King *Edward the Second*, and with *Lord Reginald de Gray*, the custody of the kingdom. On the death of the king, which happened in 1307, he was restored to the archiepiscopal see of *Canterbury*, and took a very active part in bringing about several decrees which were passed for the better government of the church.

*Winchelsea* still continues to confer the title of an earldom, and which was first granted in the year 1628.

On leaving *Winchelsea* to proceed to *Rye*, about a mile and a half from the town, and half a mile from the sea, in a marshy peninsula, stand the remains of *Winchelsea*, or *Camber Castle*, which was built by *Henry the Eighth*, in the year 1539, for the protection of this part of the coast, at a very considerable expense ; according to tradition, it is supposed to have been erected on the scite or with the materials of a more ancient fabric. The remains, which are now fast mouldering to decay, principally consist of a large circular tower, or keep, with several smaller towers of similar form, at short distances ; and round the former are clinks for a low battery, now almost buried below the surface of the earth ; the walls are mostly composed of brick cased with stone.

## RYE,

WHICH is also a member of the Cinque Ports, is situated upon an eminence, west-



WINCHELSEA CASTLE.



ward of the mouth of the River Rother, at the eastern extremity of the county, and two miles and a half from *Winchelsea*.

The earliest notice to be traced of it in history, under its present name, is on the occasion of the *Danes* landing near it, in the year 893, when they seized the Castle of *Apuldore*, in Kent. According to *Lambard*, *Edward the Confessor* gave the towns of *Rye* and *Winchelsea* to the abbot and monks of *Fescamp*, in NORMANDY; but *Henry the Third*, in the thirty-first year of his reign, for the better defence of ENGLAND, resumed possession of both these towns, giving in exchange for them, the manor of *Cheltenham* and *Selover*, in Gloucestershire, and other lands in the county of Lincoln. The tempest which overwhelmed the old town of *Winchelsea*, occasioned also a very considerable change in the situation of *Rye*, and completely altered the course of the River Rother, which before that event discharged itself into the sea, at *Romney*.

In the reign of *Edward the Third*, RYE was enclosed with walls, and fortified by gateways, some of which are yet remaining,

although in a ruinous condition : the north, or LAND GATE, leading into Kent, is the most perfect, and has a very handsome Gothic arch, guarded on each side with a round tower. There is also remaining, the *Tower*, founded in the twelfth century by *William de Ipres*, earl of Kent, and which has a venerable and picturesque appearance : it has been used as a prison ever since the Town-Hall was completed. Beneath it is a battery of eighteen guns.

Notwithstanding these precautions, *Rye* was, in the year 1377, taken by the *French*, who landed from five vessels, and, after plundering it, set it on fire, and, as *Stowe* remarks, “ within five hours brought it wholly unto ashes, with the Church, that then was there, of wonderful beauty, conveying away four of the richest of that town prisoners, and slaying sixty-six, left not above eyght in the town : forty-two hogsheads of wine they carried thence to their ships, with the rest of their booty, and left the town desolate.” During the reign of *Henry the Sixth*, it was a second time destroyed by the

*French*, when all the old records and charters belonging to it are supposed to have perished, excepting a few fragments, dated in the twenty-seventh year of that king's reign. *Henry the Seventh* visited *Rye* in the third year of his reign ; also *Queen Elizabeth* in the year 1573, while on a tour round the coast.

In the sixteenth century, the HARBOUR of *Rye*, which had for many years been in a decayed state, was restored in consequence of the violence of a very extraordinary tempest : and about thirty years ago was rendered sufficiently commodious to enable vessels of two hundred tons burden to come up to the quay to load and unload. This great improvement in *Rye Harbour*, (and which had for many years been deemed impracticable, owing to the heavy sea and powerful influx and reflux of the tide,) was effected by a dam of a singular construction, invented by the *Rev. Daniel Pape*, L.L.B. and to whom the Society of Arts granted a gold medal.

In the year 1673, king *Charles the Second* reviewed the *English* and *French* fleets ly-

ing in RYE BAY, within sight of the town. As WINCHELSEA declined, RYE is said to become of greater consequence, from its enjoying a commodious harbour, and which, in boisterous weather, has often proved of the greatest relief to vessels beating about upon the raging ocean: particularly on the occasions when two of our kings were compelled to seek shelter in it on their return from the Continent; viz. *George the First*, in January, 1725, and his successor, in December, 1736.

The town of RYE, as before-mentioned, being a member of the Cinque Ports, also enjoys similar privileges and immunities. The corporation, which is held by prescription, consist of a mayor, jurats, and freemen, who have had the right of electing two members to serve in parliament ever since the forty-second of *Henry the Third*.

The CHURCH, in consequence of having undergone very considerable repair and alteration during the early part of last century, has lost much of its ancient appearance; it is however remarkable for being one of



the largest edifices in the kingdom. The interior contains nothing deserving of particular observation.

The only vestige remaining of the other ancient religious edifices which Rye formerly contained, is part of the chapel, with gothic windows of the monastery of the Friars' Hermits of St. Augustine, now occupied as a storehouse.

The town of RYE consists of several streets very irregularly built; the houses which amount to upwards of 400, have, in general a very ancient appearance. The number of its inhabitants far exceeds the enumeration made in 1801, when they were stated at 2187 they are composed of presbyterians, quakers, baptists, and methodists. In the lower street is a free GRAMMAR SCHOOL, which was erected in the year 1636 by *Thomas Peacock*, gent. one of the jurats, and endowed with the sum of £35 annually. There is also another free school, for the education of poor children, founded by a Mr. Saunders. In the principal street, nearly in the centre of the town, is a handsome MARKET PLACE and PUBLIC HALL.

The trade of RYE consists chiefly in hops,

wool, and timber ; besides, during the season, the herring and mackerel fisheries enable many poor families to maintain themselves. Vast quantities of lime is burned near the town, from chalk brought from the cliffs at *East Bourne*. The market days are held every Wednesday and Friday, besides two fairs annually, on Whit Monday and the 10th of August.

Since peace has been concluded with *France*, a packet sails twice a week from *Rye* to *Boulogne*.

About half a mile to the west of *Hastings* is

### THE WHITE ROCK,

On the top of which there was formerly a battery : in the road, further on, projecting over a piece of water, is a stone called the

### CONQUEROR'S TABLE,

Which tradition assigns as the spot on which *William Duke of Normandy* dined after he landed. Two miles distant is

### BULVERHYTHE,

Which is said to derive its name from the circumstance of *William the Conqueror* having granted an ancestor of the *Pelham* fa-

mily as much ground as he could cover with a bull's hide, which was very extensive in consequence of his resorting to the expedient of cutting the hide into slips. In a field close by this place, behind the cliffs, are the ruins of an ancient *Church* or *Chapel*; it is, however to be lamented, that not any authentic accounts are to be traced, on what account, or by whom it was erected. Upon the sands at this place are the remains of a large *Dutch* ship, cailed the *Amsterdam*, the ribs of which after a boisterous sea washes the sands away, are to be seen entire, and disclose nearly its circumference, sometimes appearing four or five feet above the sands: it is supposed to have been run on shore about eighty years ago by convicts, who had mutinied, and was loaded with treasure.

The ship being of immense weight, and most of the cargo ponderous commodities, it was soon enveloped in the sands, and all attempts to clear the lower deck, even with the assistance of soldiers quartered in the neighbourhood, proved abortive,\* in consequence of the tide returning before it could be effected; and the greatest part of the hull now

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\* The Parishioners of Bexhill in 1827, employed a number of men in clearing the sand from the bow of the Ship, and found a quantity of china, glass, and beads.

remains a monument of the power of the raging ocean. The lower deck is supposed to contain a great quantity of sheet copper. Time obliterates the memory of past occurrences ; the generation dies in which they happen ; the next hear them with indifference ; and they are soon forgotten. Many of the crew were drowned, and brought to *HASTINGS* to be buried.

This place, in the winter season, abounds with snipe and wild fowl ; and, as such, affords much amusement to those who are partial to the delightful sport of shooting. Proceed through shady lanes to

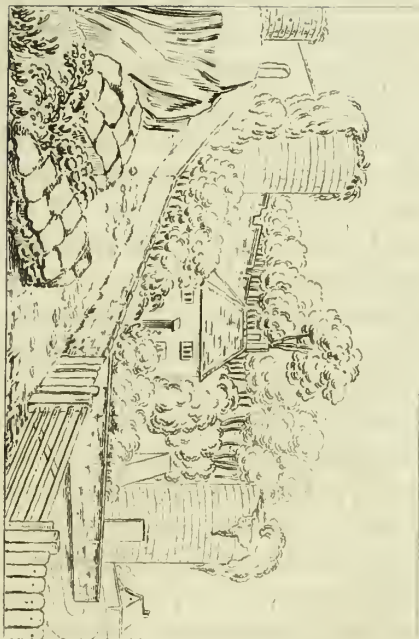
### BEXHILL,

A pleasant, airy village, about six miles from *Hastings*, and one from the sea. Here is a good inn, and several neat lodging-houses for the accommodation of those who wish for the retirement of a country village. During the war there were extensive barracks.

Seven miles further is

### PEVENSEY,

Now reduced to a small village, was once a seaport town of considerable importance, and is reckoned among those places which were ravaged by *Godwin, Earl of Kent*, in the time of *Edward the Confessor* : it no



LEVENSAY CASTLE.



doubted its former prosperity to its advantageous situation for commerce, and its subsequent decline to the receding of the sea, from which it at present stands more than a mile distant. PEVENSEY is also celebrated in history as the place where *William the Conqueror* landed with his army. It is distant about thirteen miles from HASTINGS, and is often frequented during the summer season, especially by the lovers of the picturesque, who cannot fail of enjoying much gratification in viewing the extensive remains of its ancient *Castle*.

At what period, or by whom this Castle was constructed, does not appear from any of the Topographical or Historical Works which have yet been published relative to the county of Sussex; but it is generally supposed to have been built by the *Romans*.

The principal entrance is on the west or land side, over a drawbridge, between two round towers, and is surrounded by a ditch on all sides but the east. Within is a smaller fortification, more of a quadrangular form, moated on the north and west side, with two round towers and another drawbridge. The inside of the inner castle consists chiefly of six complete large towers, or bastions, two

of which being much larger than the others, are supposed to have been the kitchen and refectory, or eating room, from the size of the chimnies and doorways. The circumference of the inner castle is about twenty-five rods, and of the outward walls, 250. The external walls are nearly entire, and about twenty feet in height, and enclose an area of seven acres.

Shortly after *William the Conqueror* ascended the throne of ENGLAND, he gave the town and castle of *Pevensey* to his half brother, *earl of Mortaigne*, in NORMANDY, and created him *earl of Cornwall*, which he enjoyed, with many other honors, during the reign of that king; but having taken part with his brother *Odo, earl of Kent*, in an insurrection in favor of *Robert Courthose*, an army was sent against this castle to reduce him, but on its arrival he surrendered and made peace. He was succeeded in his possessions by *William, earl of Mortaigne and Cornwall*, who, on being refused the earldom of Kent by *Henry the First*, joined with *Robert de Belesme, earl of Shrewsbury*, in a rebellion; whereupon the king seized all his estates, demolished most of his castles, and banished him from the realm. The town



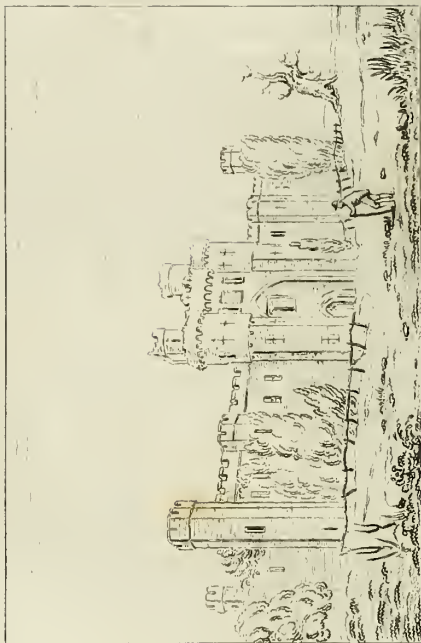
and castle of *Pevensey* were shortly after given to *Gilbert de Aquila*, and which, in allusion to the name of the owner, were styled the honor of the Eagle, with whose descendants they remained some time, but were again forfeited to the crown, when king *Henry the Third*, in the thirtieth year of his reign, gave the Castle of *Pevensey* to his son, *Prince Edward*, and his heirs, in order that it should never again be separated from the crown ; notwithstanding which, however, the Castle and domain of *Pevensey* were settled on *John of Gaunt*, duke of Lancaster, and fourth son of *Edward the Third*, upon surrendering the earldom of Richmond, and all estates appertaining thereto. On *Henry the Fourth*, son of *John of Gaunt*, ascending the throne he gave the Castle of *Pevensey* to the *Pelham* family, as a reward for their loyalty and valor, with whom it remained till about the middle of last century, when the duke of Newcastle resigned it to *Spencer Compton*, earl of Wilmington, on his being created baron of *Pevensey* ; and is now the property of Lord George Henry Cavendish.

It appears by *Madox's History of the Exchequer*, that in the sixth year of the reign of king *John*, *Pevensey*, among other trading

towns, paid a quinxieme or tax for its merchandise ; and in the ninth year of the reign of that king, the barons of *Pevensey* fined forty marks, for licence to build a town between *Pevensey* and *Langley*, which should enjoy the same privileges as the Cinque Ports, and that they might have an annual fair to last seventeen days, commencing on the anniversary of St. John the Baptist ; also a market every Sunday ; but it is not known how far this project was carried into execution.

ANDREW BORDE, or *Andreas Perforatus*, as he styled himself in Latin, was a native of *Pevensey*. He was educated at *Winchester*, and at New College, *Oxford*, where he applied himself very closely and successfully to the study of physic. On leaving the university, he is reported to have visited every country in EUROPE, and several parts of AFRICA. On his return to ENGLAND, he took his doctor's degree in 1541, 1542, and first settled in his native town, whence he removed to *Winchester*, and finally to *London*, where he is said to have become a fellow of the college of physicians, and first physician to *Henry the Eighth*. His eccentricity of character led him to frequent fairs, mar-





HERSTMONCEAUX CASTLE.

kets, and other places of public resort, where he would harangue the people in a language naturally quaint and jocose ; and from him the itinerant venders of nostrums are said to have derived the appellation of *Merry Andrews*: Notwithstanding his jocose turn he is reported to have practised the austerities of the Carthusians, to which order he once belonged ; living in celibacy, drinking water three days in the week, wearing a hair shirt, and every night hanging his burial sheet at the feet of his bed. He died, 1549, in the Fleet Prison ; but it is not probable that he was confined there for debt, as he left property to a considerable amount, both in *Norfolk* and at *Winchester*. He was the author of several works on various subjects ; and *Wood* says, that “ he was esteemed a noted poet, a witty and ingenious person, and an excellent physician\*.”

About two miles distant, over the marshes by *Wartling Hill*, lies

### HERSTMONCEUX CASTLE.

The remains of the Castle of *Herstmonceux* stand in a pleasing part of the county of *Sussex*. It was built by Sir Roger Fynes

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\* Beauties of England and Wales, vol. 14, p. 160.

who lies buried at Herstmonceux church under a flat stone ornamented with brass. The Castle walls enclose three courts, a large one and two that are comparatively small. The entrance to the internal parts is under the great gate-house fronting the south ; on the north side is the hall.

By a survey of this Castle and domaine taken in the reign of queen *Elizabeth*, and which is still to be seen at *Herstmonceux*, it appears that the moat which encompasses it on the south, west, and north sides, and is now dry, was formerly full of water ; but was drained, together with a great pool on the east side, for the purpose of improving the air, as the health of the inhabitants was found to be affected by the great quantity of stagnant water there collected. The walls of the Castle are entirely of brick : it was esteemed one of the completest ancient buildings of that material in the kingdom.

Sir Roger Fynes, who erected this edifice, was succeeded by his eldest son Sir Richard Fynes, who espoused the lady Joan, daughter of Sir Thomas Dacre : he was succeeded in this estate by Thomas, his grandson, who likewise was succeeded by his grandson

Thomas Lord Dacre, who suffered death in consequence of a servant of sir Nicholas Pelham being killed in a fray, which arose from lord Dacre and a party of his friends determining to take a deer on the lands of sir Nicholas : some of them were met by his park-keepers, and the blow for which lord Dacre suffered, and which occasioned the death of the keeper, was given in the absence of lord Dacre.

The estate was purchased from the Dacre family by —Nayler, esq. who made it his principle residence: he married a sister of the late duke of Newcastle, but dying without issue he left it to his sister, the wife of Wm. Hare, bishop of Chichester, and her heirs. The bishop almost constantly resided here, and it is now the property of—Gilham, esq.

### FAIRLIGHT.

Is remarkable for its variety of beautiful views. From the top of the *Down*, near the windmill, (which stands on the highest ground in this part of the county) may be seen the British Channel, from the *south Foreland* to *Beachy Head*, being a distance

of nearly eighty miles ; the whole extent of the French coast, from *Calais Cliffs* to *Boulogne* ; and the *Napolean Tower*, which stands on a lofty eminence about two miles from the town, and which was designed by the French army assembled at *Boulogne*, under the command of *Buonaparte*, (self-styled the army of ENGLAND,) to commemorate the projected conquest of this country ; it now remains the monument of the Usurper's folly : but such are the vicissitudes of human life, and so just the retribution of Providence, that this haughty tyrant was compelled soon after to seek refuge from the fury of his own enslaved subjects, by throwing himself upon the liberality of a generous nation, which he had vainly boasted he would destroy. In the nearer view may be distinguished the towns of *Hastings*, *Bexhill*, *Eastbourne*, *Winchelsea*, *Rye*, *Romney*, *Lydd*, *Hythe*. *Ashford*, and *Tenterden* besides *Dover Cliffs*, and innumerable villages, with a great part of the counties of SUSSEX and KENT. About one hour before sun set is the best time for seeing the opposite shore.

In this parish is the Farm called the







DRIPPING WELL.





FISH PONDS.

## FISH PONDS,\*

About a mile from the town, one of the favorite walks from HASTINGS, near which, is the

## DRIPPING WELL

A pretty waterfall, situated in a wood, on the edge of the cliff, which overlooks Covehurst and the sea. A little further on is

## FAIRLIGHT PLACE,†

Which stands in a situation singularly beautiful, combining all the advantage of shade and shelter, with the most delightful and enchanting scenery. It is part of estate belonging to *Edward Milward, esq.* of HASTINGS, and the house is now in the occupation of *Joseph Planta, esq.* one of the Barons to serve in Parliament for this Town and Port.

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\* The FOOT PATH to the Fish Ponds is by the narrow lane at the north-east of the High Street, marked in the map of Hastings: and the HORSE and CARRIAGE way is by the TURNPIKE ROAD, passing the Hare and Hounds and Fairlight Cottage.

† For the information of strangers we think it our duty to notice, that in consequence of the great injury that has been experienced by the proprietor of this Farm from the thoughtless and improper conduct of many persons who had permission to ride and drive thereon, it has been found indispensably necessary to limit such permission to those only who are on FOOT, and to lock the gates against all Carriages and Horses, excepting only such as belong to the friends and visitors of the family residing in the House, the entrance to which is at the gate and lodge, standing by the side of the road leading to Fairlight Church.

## LOVERS' SEAT.

A little to the left, on the top of the cliff is the **LOVERS' SEAT**, a spot much frequented by such of the visitants as are able to bear the fatigue of a distant walk: descending the valley through the wood towards the under-cliff and the sea, the stranger cannot fail to admire the beautiful scenery of *Fairlight Glen*.

When the weather will permit, the **Pleasure Boats** of **HASTINGS** are constantly employed in conveying the company by sea to this part of the coast, known by the name of

## COVE HURST,

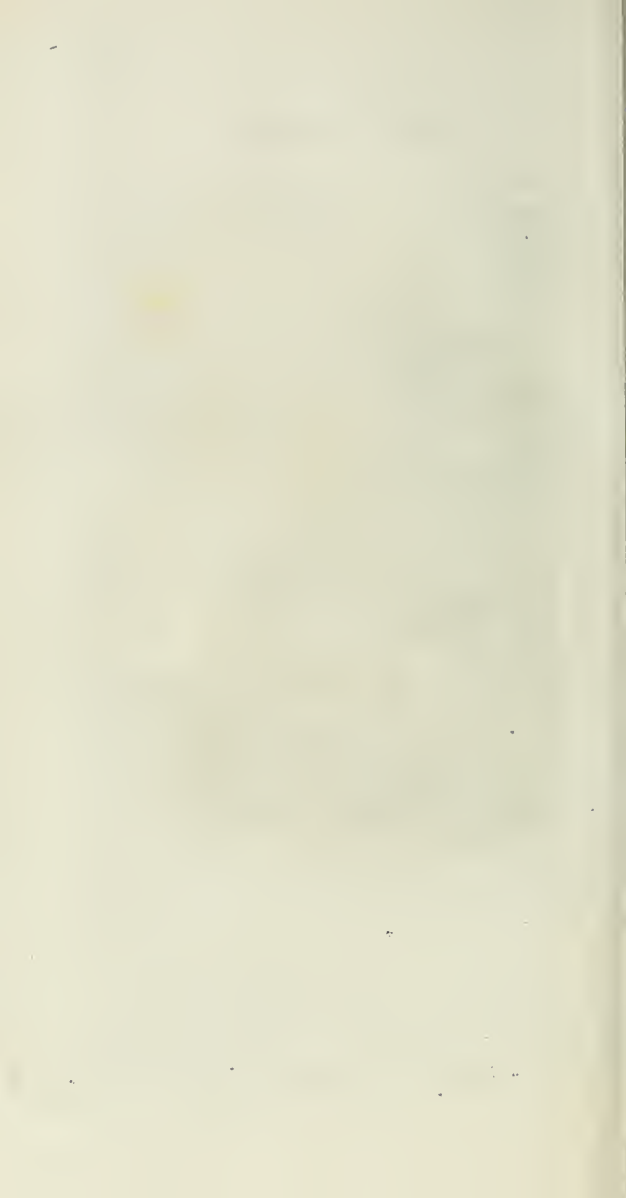
About the distance of a league from the town. The cliffs are in many places richly ornamented with trees and underwood growing close to the edge of the sea, which give them a great resemblance to some parts of the *Isle of Wight*; they appear to the greatest advantage when seen at a short distance from the shore..

## GUESTLING HILL COTTAGE.

Was built by **L. G. SHORTER**, esq. in the year 1795, on a part of the **Rocks Farm**.

LOVERS SEAT.



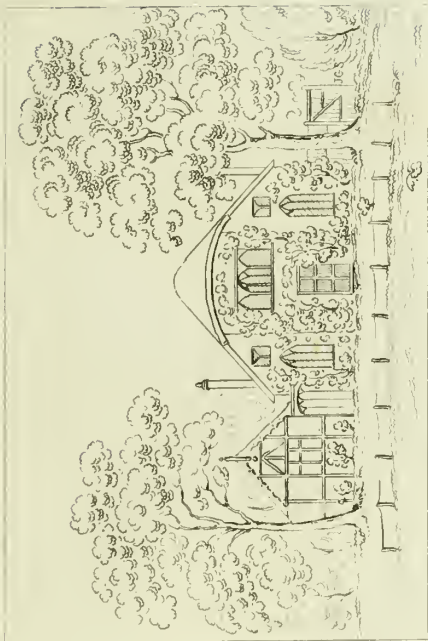






FAIRLIGHT GLENN.





GUESTLING HILL COTTAGE.





OLD ROAR,



The situation is peculiarly romantic and beautiful, it stands on a gentle eminence, convenient for the road which leads to Winchelsea, and is sufficiently removed from it. The views both sea and inland cannot be surpassed. On a clear day may be seen the French coast from Cape Blancney to near Estaples, Dungeness, Dover Cliffs, the range of the Kentish Hills, by Eastwell Park, Hollingborne, and Wrotham. The disposition of the grounds are more varied than could be expected, in the small compass of an acre, containing ancient forest trees, shrubs and shady walks. The sketch† shews a front view of the cottage as it appeared in 1820. Since that time it has been enlarged, and is now let on lease to Wm. Lucas Shadwell, esq.

### THE OLD ROAR

Is a pretty waterfall, about two miles northwest of *Hastings*, and situated in the middle of a wood: the walk to it, over the west hill, by Ore Parsonage, is extremely pleasant

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† To be had with the illustrated edition.

## GLEN ROAR

Is a beautiful Glen and Waterfall, about 200 yards north west of the old roar, but being also situated in the middle of a wood, is seldom seen by visitors, or others, except Sportsmen, who penetrate through the thicket in pursuit of game.

Distant from *Hastings* about four miles, is

## HOLLINGTON CHURCH,

singular for its situation, being in the middle of a *wood*. The most pleasant road is by *Bohemia Farm* to *Hollington Corner*. From hence, to the right, is

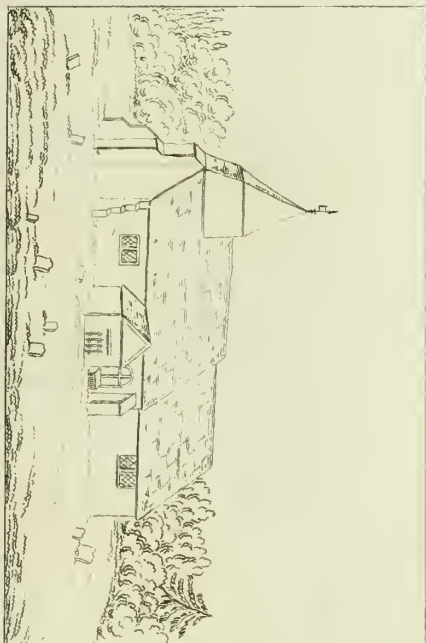
## HOLLINGTON LODGE,

A most delightful situation, and in the possession of Sir C. Lamb, Bart.

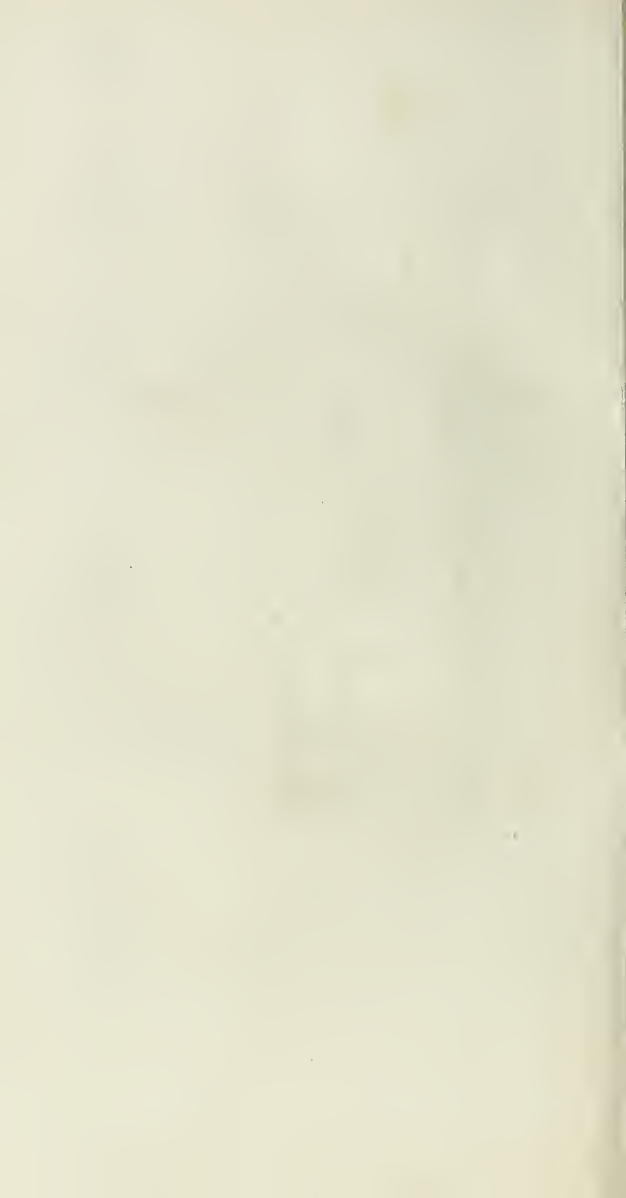
## BEAUPORT,

Built by the late *General Murray*, and so named after a village in CANADA, near *Quebeck*, of which city he was appointed Governor, when it first surrendered to the





HOLLINGTON CHURCH.

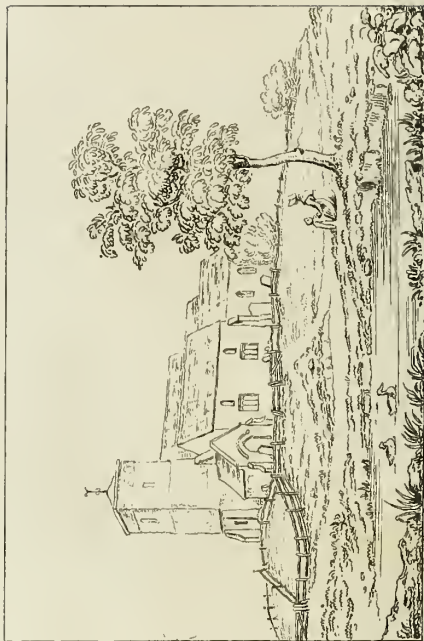




GLENN ROAR.







ORE CHURCH.

British Troops under the command of the celebrated *General Wolfe*.

It is a handsome modern building, about midway between *Hastings* and *Battle*, and is now occupied by *sir Charles Montolieu Lamb, bart.*

### ORE CHURCH.

Is on an eminence, about two miles on the London road. It is a delightful walk, over the fields, and is much frequented by the visitors and inhabitants of *Hastings*.

### CROWHURST,

Originally one of the many lordships possessed by *Harold, Earl of Kent*, in the reign of *Edward the Confessor*, after the Conquest was seized by king *William*, and given, with other demesnes, to *Alan Fergant, earl of Britanny* and *Richmond*, as a reward for his courage at the battle of *Hastings*, from whom it descended to *John, earl of Britanny* and *Richmond*, who granted, out of this and other estates, one hundred marks yearly for life, to *sir John Devereux*. At the demise of his lordship, this and other estates devolved to his sister *Joan*, the widow of

*Ralph, Lord Basset of Drayton.* The manor of CROWHURST at present belongs to *John Cresset Pelham, esq.* the descendent of a younger branch of that ancient family, and who has a beautiful seat and park in this parish, which commands a most delightful prospect of the ocean and surrounding country.

The CHURCH at CROWHURST, which is situated near a mile and a half from *Mr. Pelham's* residence, is a small edifice, and has nothing whatever to render it deserving of the notice of the antiquary. In the church yard is a remarkable large yew tree, measuring twenty-three feet in circumference, in the smallest part, which has a very majestic appearance.

At a short distance on the south side of Crowhurst Church are some considerable remains of an ancient *Chapel* or *Oratory*, supposed to have been built by one of the lords of this manor, and which have for many years past, been converted into small buildings for the use of the adjacent farm. In one of the walls is a fine pointed arch window with trefoils, in tolerable preservation, which, from its dimensions, may be



concluded to have been formerly the principal one in the building.

### BATTLE,

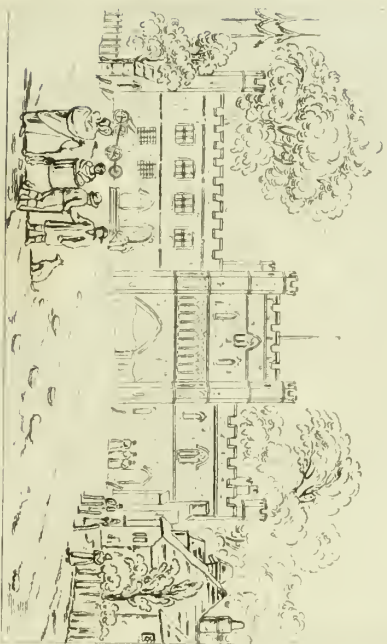
Originally a small village, called *Epiton*, derives its appellation from the memorable conflict which took place, in the year 1066, between the armies under *William, duke of Normandy*, and *Harold, king of England*, the town being built upon the spot where the battle was fought, although that important event is generally termed the *battle of Hastings*.

BATTLE is a small town, situated about fifty-six miles from *London* and eight from *Hastings*, and consists only of one street, indifferently built, but is much improved by the elegant gothic front of the Abbey gateway which faces it. King *Henry the first* granted to this town a charter for a market to be kept on the Sunday, and which was continued till the seventeenth century, when it was altered to Thursday. The trade of the town consists chiefly in the manufacture of gunpowder, for which it has long been noted. Here are two fairs annually, on Whit Monday and on November 22, both of which are much frequented.

## BATTLE ABBEY.

The ABBEY, as before observed, was founded by *William the Conqueror*, in commemoration of his success in defeating the *English* ; and on that part of the field where the contest raged most fiercely, the high altar standing on the very spot where, according to some historians, the dead body of *Harold* was found, or where his standard was taken up. It was dedicated to St. Martin, and filled with Benedictine Monks from the *Abbey of Marmontier*, in NORMANDY ; perhaps on the account of the thought of the erection being first suggested by *William Faber*, one of the monks of that house, which was also dedicated to St. Martin. The king intended to have endowed the abbey with lands sufficient for the maintenance of one hundred and forty monks, had not death prevented him.

He, however, granted it divers prerogatives and immunities, similar to those enjoyed by the monks of Christ Church, *Canterbury* ; such as the exclusive right of inquest on all murders committed within their lands, treasure trove, or the property of all treasures found on their estates, free warren, and



GATEWAY, BATTLE ABBEY.



BATTLE ABBEY, FROM THE FISH PONDS.





exemption for themselves and tenants from all episcopal and other ecclesiastical jurisdiction; also this peculiar right of sanctuary, that if any person adjudged guilty of homicide, or any other crime, should fly to that church, no harm should be done him, and he should be dismissed entirely free: but, above all, he gave to the abbot the royal power of pardoning any condemned thief he should casually pass by, or meet going to execution.

He also bestowed on them the land for a league round their house, likewise the manor of *Wye*, in KENT; both free from all aids, impositions, and services. He likewise gave them his royal customs in *Wye*, together with his right of Wreck in *Dengemarsh* (a member thereof), as also that of any great or royal fish, called crassipies, which should be there driven ashore, except when it happened without certain limits, in which case they were to have only two parts of the fish and the tongue, these being all the king usually had. He likewise endowed them with the manors of *Aldiston*, in SUSSEX; *Lymfield*, in SURREY; *How*, in ESSEX; *Craumere*, in OXFORDSHIRE; and *Briswalderton*, in

BERKSHIRE ; with divers other lands, together with the churches of *Radings* and *Columnton*, in DEVONSHIRE : also that of *St. Olaves*, afterwards the priory of *St. Nicholas, Exeter*. Moreover. he confirmed to them all gift of lands, bestowed by his subjects, to be held as free as those granted by himself. The abbey of *Brecknock*, in WALES, was also afterwards made a cell to this house.

At the dissolution, the estates of BATTLE ABBEY were valued, the twenty-sixth of *Henry the Eighth*, according to *Dugdale*, at £880. 14s. 7d. per annum ; *Speed* says, £987. 10d. when pensions were assigned to several of the monks. The site was granted, by king *Henry*, to one *Gilmer*, who first pulled down many of the buildings, and sold the materials : he afterwards also disposed of the land, which was purchased by *sir Anthony Browne*, whose descendents converted what was left of the abbey buildings into a comfortable dwelling.

The following description of this edifice is given by *Browne Willis*, in his view of *Mitred Abbeys*. “ Though this abbey be demolished, yet the magnificence of it appears by the ruins of the cloysters, &c. and by the



largeness of the hall, kitchen and gate-house, of which, the last is entirely preserved. It is a noble pile, and in it are held sessions, and other meetings for this peculiar jurisdiction, which hath still great privileges belonging to it. What the hall was in its glory, may be guessed by its dimensions; its length about fifty of my paces: part of it is now used as a hay-barn: it was leaded; part of the lead yet remains, and the rest is tiled. As to the kitchen, it was so large as to contain five fire-places, and it was arched at top; but the extent of the whole abbey may be better measured by the compass of it, it being computed at no less than a mile about.

“In this church the Conqueror offered up his sword and royal robe, which he wore on the day of his coronation. The monks kept these till the suppression, and used to shew them as great curiosities, and worthy of the sight of their best friends and all persons of distinction that happened to come hither. Nor were they less careful about preserving a table of the Norman gentry which came to ENGLAND with the Conqueror. This table continued till the dissolution, and was seen by our admirable antiquary,

*Mr. Leland*, who hath given us the contents of it in the first tome of his *Collectania*."

The authority, however of this roll is not greatly to be depended upon. *Sir Wm. Dugdale* speaking of it in the first volume of his *Baronage*, says, "There are great errors, or rather falsifications, in most of the copies of it, by attributing the derivation of many from the *French*, who were not at all of such extraction, but merely *English*: for such hath been the subtilty of some monks of old, that finding it acceptable unto most to be reputed descendants to those who were companions to duke *William* in his expedition; therefore, to gratify them, they inserted their names into the ancient catalogue." "Not far," continues *Willis*, "from the abbey stands the parochial church, which is one of the best in all the county. In this church there formerly hung up an old table, containing certain verses, the remains of which I shall subjoin.

This place of war is *Battel* called, because  
in battle here,  
Quite conquered and oberthrowen the En-  
glish nation were;

This slaughter happened to them upon  
 St. Celict's Day,  
 The year whereof=====this number doth  
 array."

The following letter, written by *Gage* and *Layton* to the *Lord Cromwell*, shews the state of the furniture and vestments of this rich abbey at the time of the dissolution, which makes it seem as if the monks expected a storm, and were making up a purse. The letter is preserved in the *British Museum*, among the *Cottonian manuscripts*.

"This shal be to advertise yor Lordshippe, that we haue taken the assurance for the kyng, and haue caste oʳ bowke for the dispache of the monks and householde, which amownt-tithe at the leaste to a 2 hundrethe pownds : the implements of the householde be the worst that evʳ I see in Abbaye or Priorie, the vestyments so olde & so baysse worne raggede and torne ss yuor Lordshipe would not thinke, so that very small money can be made of the vestrye ; if your Lordshippe sende us a hundrethe pownds by the bringer, we shall make up the reste if hit be possible of the olde ves-

trye stuffe ; if we cannot, we shall disburse  
 y till or retorne to y<sup>r</sup> Lordshippe the church  
 plate and plate of the householde, we sup-  
 pose by estimation will amount to cccc marks  
 or more : there is no great store of catell ;  
 this day we be making an inventorie ; thus  
 or Lord continewe yowe in honour, from  
 Battel Abbay, the 27th of May.

Yor Lordshippes to command,

John Gage.

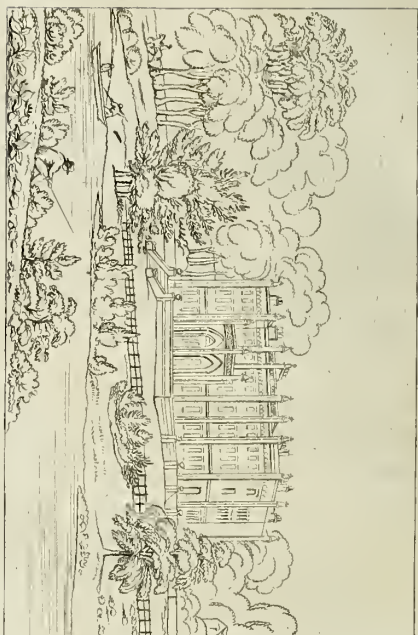
Yor Lordshippes most humble

to command,

Ric Layton Prest."

The last abbot was *John Hammond*, who  
 surrendered this abbey on the 27th of May,  
 in the thirtieth year of king *Henry the eighth*  
 with the rest of his monks, and obtained a  
 pension of 100 marks annually, by letters  
 patent, dated the 6th of July, 1538, which  
 said letters patent mention this abbot to have  
 presided a good while before the dissolution,  
 and contains a clause to vacate his pension  
 in case of the king preferring him, which  
 certainly would not have been thought of or  
 inserted, had this abbot been so scandalously  
 wicked as *Dr. Burnet* has related.





ASHBURNHAM PLACE.

The Church of *Battle* is a very handsome structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, two aisles, and a neat tower at the west end. It contains several curious inscriptions on brass, and other sepulchral memorials, of great antiquity. The *Font* is very handsome, and, from its appearance, the same as was placed in it, when the church was first erected. In the windows of the north aisle are to be traced some curious figures and devices, on painted glass; and in a niche in the wall, on the north side of the chancel, is a very fine altar-monument, to the memory of *Sir Anthony Browne*, standard-bearer to king *Henry the Eighth*: he is represented lying on his back, in armour, and adorned with the insignia of the garter. Beside him is the effigy of his lady, in the habit of the times.

About three miles from *BATTLE* is

### ASHBURNHAM PLACE.

The magnificent seat of the *Earl of Ashburnham*. The judicious and extensive improvements which have been recently made, both in the house and the park, suffi-

ciently manifest the elegant taste of its noble owner.

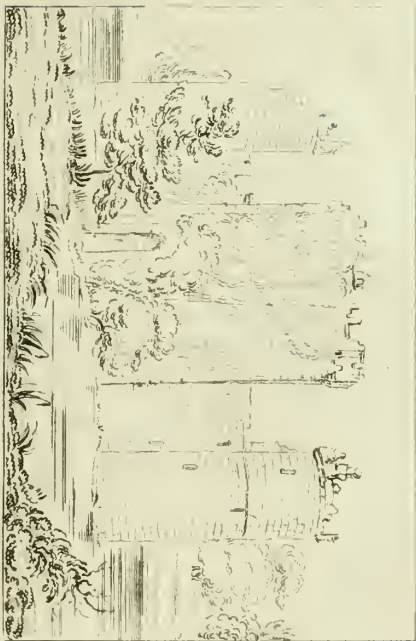
In the church, near the mansion, may be seen many valuable curiosities, belonging to this ancient family, which were given by the unfortunate *Charles the First*, to his confidential friend and companion, *Mr. Ashburnham*.

### BODIAM CASTLE.

BODIAM CASTLE stands at a small distance east of the village of the same name, six miles from Battle, and like most of our ancient mansions, is situated low, and encompassed by a deep moat. This castle was once a magnificent pile, and is still noble even in ruins : its figure is nearly square, having a round tower at each angle ; gates on the north and south fronts, and a square tower in the centre of the east and west sides.

The principal entrance is on the north side, over a kind of causeway, defended by an advanced gate, the remains of which are still standing ; it is extremely grand, flanked by two square machicolated towers. Over the entrance are three escutcheons of arms, beneath a crest of an unicorn's head ; the





BODIAM CASTLE.



iron portcullis, quite entire, is yet in its place over this entrance.

This castle is said to have been built by one of the Dalingrigs, a family of ancient note in this county. The widow of sir Richard Dalingrig, in the reign of Henry the Fourth, married sir Thomas Boteler, knt. lord Boteler of Wemme: he held it during her life as her jointure. It afterwards passed to sir Thomas Lewkenor, who married Phillippa, daughter and heiress of sir Richard Dalingrig: from the Lewkenors it came to the earl of Thanet, from whom it was purchased by the Powels, who sold it to sir Thomas Webster, bart. and it is now the property of *sir Godfrey Webster*, bart.

## GEOLOGICAL NOTICE.

A brief notice of the geological features of Hastings may not be unacceptable to many of our readers.

The descent of River Hill, in Kent, the approach to Bexhill, or the aspect of an extended and marshy plain below Hythe, will have introduced the observer, by whatever road he has approached, to a group of elevated hills, rising beyond the vale through which he has to pass. He quits the chalk at Sevenoaks, Eastbourne, or Folkstone, the sands and sandy clays which succeed it, and traverses a vale of clay, the weald clay, from beneath which the ironsand strata, par excellence the Hastings beds, an irregular, rocky, and tawny group arise.\*

This deposit, which is somewhat saddle shaped in its south section, consists of a series of beds, principally sand and sandstones, and subordinately, marlstone, marle, clays, and limestones. The ferruginous character, though prevalent, is not constant; but in

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\* The general boundary line of the group may be laid down SW. at Hastings and Horsham; N. and N.E. near Penshurst, at Tonbridge, and near Winchelsea; and its S.E. section by the sea, from Cliff and near Winchelsea to the neighbourhood of Bexhill, seven miles along the Coast. See colored sketch and section.

beds where its absence is most remarkable, no mixture of green particles (Green Sand Form<sup>n</sup>) is observed. The sandstone varies, in coarse or friable character, at Hastings occupying two thirds of the section exposed towards the sea. Beneath the sandstone, cherty, calcareous and clay sandstones form the rocky base of the cliffs, and beneath these limestones of variable character are observed, to alternate with sands and clays along the shores and at points below the general base of the natural section. These substrata have been pierced near Battle, consisting of 15 thin beds of limestone alternating with shell.\*

Its mineral contents are trifling. iron-stone, hæmatetic iron, and hessatic iron pyrites in the ferruginous and shelly beds.† Concretions of chert, silicified wood; charry and bituminous wood coal in the sandstone and clays. Stalagmite occurs in fissures of the more compact strata.

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\* C. and P. (Book 2. c. 2. s. 6.) p. 148.

† The quantity of oxide of iron is variable. At Ashburnham, iron works still exist; and the tracing of smelting pits are discoverable in a variety of situations, by the slag which records a native manufacture when the fuel was more plentiful and the woods less scanty upon the landscape.

Its fossil contents are few and indistinct.\* Viviparæ, a small thin bivalve, Sabellæ of Lamarck, Cypris Faba, &c. In the compact ironstone the minute casts of the latter shell are abundant ; it occurs also in shale near Hollingdon as at Sandown, in the Isle of Wight. Saurian teeth and scales, and fragments of a crab occur also, but are rare. The slaty sandstone, and clays, enclose the bituminised remains of ferns, grasses, &c. A compact sandstone upon the shore, east and west of Hastings affords abundant fragments of wood, and branches, in a charry or silicified state. From the overlying diluvial clays, near Bexhill, a large tooth of a fossil elephant was lately collected.

We close this short notice by observing that these strata are separated in this district and elsewhere, from the green sand, or ferruginous sand with green particles and fossils wholly marine, by the blue or weald clay. This clay is interposed between the Hastings beds or iron sand, and the sands of Sandgate,

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\* For further particulars of the Hastings beds, their position and their fossils, the reader is referred to "Geological Outlines &c." Mantell's Sussex, and Dr. Fitton's and Mr. Webster's Papers upon the strata beneath the Chalk, in the Geolog. Trans., and the Annals of Philosophy, &c.

Riegate, Shanklin, and Black Gang, &c. The terms, Upper, and lower Ferruginous Sands,\* imply a connection which is not observed to be sufficiently distinct.

We add a Sketch of the Geological outline, and its overlying strata to the Chalk, from Coneybeau and Phillips's Geological Map: and a rough section from Folkestone to Hastings indicated by the waved line above the level line of the Sea, in the general Section of the Strata immediately beneath the Chalk.

References to the Sketches :—

- a.* Brown. Iron Sand.
- b.* Blue. Weald Clay.
- c.* Green. Green Sand.
- d.* Ash Grey. Gault Clay.
- e.* Pink. Fire-stone.
- f.* Straw yellow. Chalk Series.

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\* Mr. Webster, in Annals of Philosophy, &c,

## LIST OF ROCKS.

The denudation of the Strata, East and West of Hastings, exposes the undermentioned rocks :—

*A. Sandstone.*    *a. Coarse Sandstone.*

*b. Friable Sandstone.*

*c. Fine Sandstone.*

*cc. Slaty, flexible, (Lower beds East).  
Ferns, Mica.*

*d. Compact, marly, or  
cherty Sandstone. Charrib and Silicified  
wood. Mica.*

*B. Ironstone.*    *a. Shelly or compact Iron-  
stone. Vivissaræ. Sabellæ. Cypris Faba.  
Teeth, &c.*

*b. Nest Ironstone enclosing  
Argill Ironstone.*

*c. Marly and Slaty, ponde-  
rous Argill Ironstone.*

*C. Clay.*    *a. Bluish green Clay.  
(Lower beds East). Charred Wood.*

*b. Ochreous Clay, (Upper  
beds West. Pett, &c.)*

*c. Ash-coloured Clay and  
Shale, variable in colour. Cypris Faba.  
Teeth. Scales.*



*D.* Limestone. *a* Upper or Im-  
 perfect Rag Limestone. } The fossil  
     *B. b. c.* { Ferruginous Lime- } Shells of  
     Transition { stone. } these beds  
     specimens. { Slaty Limestone. } may be col-  
                     *b.* Lower or com- } lected in  
                                                     } Quarries  
                                                     } on the  
                                                     } shore, and  
                                                     } require at-  
                                                     } tention.

These may be collected in the space of a mile between the signal station, West, and Ecclesbourne, East.

Their General order descending is, *A, a, b. C, b. A, c. B, c. B, b. A, c. D, a. cc. C, a. D, a. C, c. A, d. D, b. C, c. D, b, &c.* represents the intervention of clay or loose sandy beds.

## WALKS AND RIDES,

First Walk—To the Fish Ponds,\* Dripping Well, Fairlight Place, Fairlight Glen, Lovers' Seat, and return.

Second Walk—Fairlight Down, and the Church.

Third Walk—White Rock, Bulverhythe, and Bexhill.

Fourth Walk—The Old Roar, Hollington Church.

Fifth Walk—Beauport, and Crowhurst.

First Ride—Fairlight Down, the Church, and the Fish Ponds.

Second Ride—Guestling, Winchelsea, Rye, and return by the village of Pett.

Third Ride—White Rock, Bulverhythe, and Bexhill.

Fourth Ride—Bexhill, Pevensey, Herstmonceux, and return by Ninfield and Gardnerstreet.

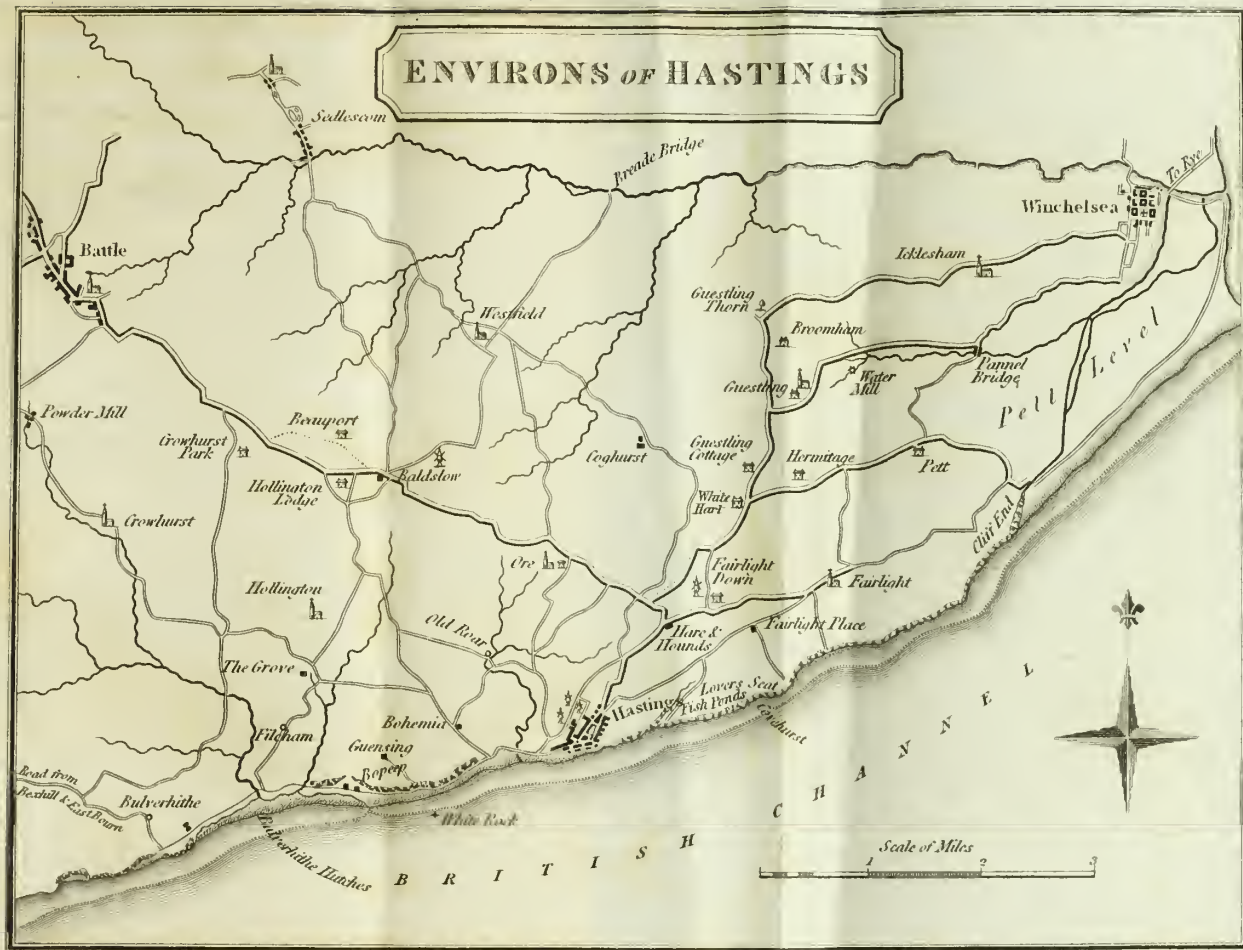
Fifth Ride—Crowhurst, Battle, and Ashburnham.

Sixth Ride—Battle, Bodiam Castle, and return by Seddlescomb and Westfield.

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\*The Footway to the Fish Ponds, is by the narrow lane at the north-east of the High-Street, which is laid down in the map of Hastings.

# ENVIRONS OF HASTINGS



Published May 20. 1879, by E.M. Powell, Hastings.

And B. Ball, 1879.



# TABLE OF DISTANCES.

	MILES.
From the Swan Inn, Hastings, to the George Inn, Battle ..	8
Ditto, to the George Inn, Robertsbridge .....	13½
Ditto, to Flimwell .....	19
Ditto, to Lamberhurst .....	23½
Ditto, to Tonbridge Town .....	33½
Ditto, to Tonbridge Wells, through Wadhurst and Ticehurst	29½
Ditto, to Seven Oaks .....	39½
Ditto, to Riverhead .....	46
Ditto, to Farnborough .....	49
Ditto, to Locksbottom .....	51
Ditto, to Bromley .....	53
Ditto, to London .....	63½
Ditto, to Bexhill .....	5
Ditto, to Pevensey .....	14½
Ditto, to New Inn, Southbourne .....	18½
Ditto, to Lamb Inn, Eastbourne .....	19
Ditto, to Winchelsea .....	8½
Ditto, to Rye .....	11
Ditto, to Horsebridge, .....	18
Ditto, to Lewes .....	32
Ditto, to Brighton.....	40

# TIDE TABLE FOR HASTINGS.

Moon's Age		High Water.		Low Water.	
New Full.		Hours. Min.		Hours. Min.	
Days	1	10	48	5	..
	2	11	36	5	48
	3	12	24	6	36
	4	1	12	7	24
	5	2	0	8	12
	6	2	48	9	0
	7	3	36	9	48
	8	4	24	10	36
	9	5	12	11	24
	10	6	0	12	12
	11	6	48	1	0
	12	7	36	1	48
	13	8	24	2	36
	14	9	12	3	24
	15	10	0	4	12

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